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The Brooklym Paper

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A GIFT OF **'SAFE' SEX**

Basket of condoms for teens



Kate Linn makes safe sex gift baskets — for teens.

THE BROOKLYN By Gersh Kuntzman

alk about a bundle of

A Brooklyn Heights woman has started selling safesex gift baskets in hopes of teaching teenagers about using protection (and having fun) — without having to actually talk about it with them!

'This all started because my 18-year-old daughter asked me for an Easter basket," said Kate Linn, whose company is called Unmentionable Things. "I thought that

See ANGLE on page 7 and pedestrian traffic on the other.



Birgit Reeves took a flier, but wants the city to close the park to cars and keep the bicycles on one side

BIKELASH

Cops are cracking down on cyclists

By Natalie O'Neill

The Brooklyn Paper Do they make radar detectors

for bikes? Cyclists in Prospect Park might want to consider such an accessory now that cops have said that they will start ticketing bike riders who exceed the park's 25-mile-

per-hour speed limit. Cops spent much of last Thursday and this Saturday barricading the East Lake Drive and stopping all bicyclists to hand out fliers announcing the rules enforcement. which will begin this week and comes on the heels of two serious crashes between riders and pedestrians.

Officers will also target riders who salmon against the flow of traffic on the park loop.

"The issue on the stretch [along the downhill part of West Drive The battle for Brooklyn's byways

near the Vanderbilt Playground] is speed," 78th Precinct commanding officer John Argenziano told

Patch.com. "Bikers are going too fast downhill." An NYPD spokesman added that the enforcement effort will

mostly target the speeders. "We're not going to be jumping out of trees, ticketing for little things like wearing headphones,"

he said. The crackdown comes after collisions in the park left two women with brain damage and after dozens of other acci-

dents and close calls.

Cops say the crackdown will not focus on pedestrians who break street rules — but on "bike enforcement." Officers did not hand out any

fliers — which also note road 'safety tips" — to pedestrians when The Brooklyn Paper visited the barricade on Thursday. That irks cyclists, who say

spaced-out walkers and in-thezone joggers are just as much to blame for the recent string of "The problem is with both par-

ties—so targeting just us isn't go-ing to solve anything," said longdistance cyclist Prince Quinland. "What about all the pedestrians who don't watch where they're

The increased enforcement comes three weeks after 55-yearold park volunteer Linda Cohen See **BIKES** on page 7

A bridge too far for Park

Costs soar for Squibb-to-Brooklyn-Bridge-Park footpath

By Kate Briquelet The Brooklyn Paper

By Kate Briquelet

The cost of a proposed footbridge from Brooklyn Heights to Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1 — a key amenity

Brooklyn Bridge Park is moving for-

ward with three soccer fields and a pic-

nic area on Pier 5 — without leaving

for residents seeking quick access to the world-class park — jumped 26 percent after park officials upgraded the design then failed to find a contractor who

room for a year-round sports bubble.

struction a \$19.2-million contract for

Park officials awarded Kelco Con-

On Monday, Brooklyn Bridge Park announced that Kelco Construction won

a \$6.2-million contract to design the Squibb Park Bridge, a 400-foot timber structure that will link Columbia



Brooklyn Bridge Park planners say a trio of artificial turf fields, a prom-See **FIELDS** on page 5 this is what Pier 5 will look like.

Heights to the verdant park below that was budgeted to cost \$4.9 million.

City planning experts called the 26-percent cost increase common in city government but still significant.

This is a big miss, and when they miss it by that much there's got to be a goddamned good reason," said former Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, who is now a fellow at the NYU Wagner School for Public Service. "Sometimes development [agencies] lowball figures because they want to make the project seem smaller."

Officials at Brooklyn Bridge Park said that the \$4.9-million estimate was for the bridge and design "soft costs," but that the project has evolved to include more lighting, handicapped accessibility and upgrades to Squibb Park's



Originally budgeted at \$4.9 million, the footpath from Squibb Park to Brooklyn Bridge Park has soared in cost by 26 percent

existing infrastructure.

"As with any competitive bidding process, the market dictates actual costs," said park spokeswoman El-

The bridge — which will be com-

pleted by next fall and zigzag between the future luxury condo and hotel complex at Pier 1 — won't increase the park's construction budget but will instead be paid for with funds in reserve.

See **SQUIBB** on page 5



'Bubble' bursts

Pier 5 rec fields move forward

Sakman Candy on Fourth Avenue between 68th and 69th streets is just one of the delis and smoke shops that carry spice, a powerful synthetic marijuana sold as potpourri.

Spice trade

Borough teens hospitalized after smoking fake weed

By Dan MacLeod

The Brooklyn Paper

This spice ain't nice.

Bay Ridge delis sell a mysterious wacky weed that comes in bubblegum and cherry flavors, and is connected to hallucinations and seizures that have landed 32 tokers in the hospital this year, according to authorities.

The synthetic herb — known as "Spice," "K2" and "potpourri" is being sold at local smoke shops and delis without a list of ingredients at stores patronized

by teens, despite a federal ban on

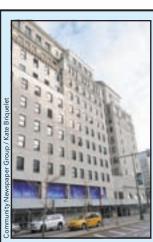
the key ingredients that mimic the high of marijuana.

It's a recipe for disaster, says "There's no doubt that this is a

drug," said Poison Control Center Director Bob Hoffman. "Could you die from this? Yes. I don't know that any fatalities have been reported yet, but I don't know that they would be."

The drugs look similar to marijuana and are sold as an herb that is treated with chemicals, which stimulate the same areas of the

See **WEED** on page 15



A developer is bringing a sweets shop and barbecue and beer joint to the decrepit offices at 345 Adams St. along with Panera Bread.

Downtown

Two new national eateries to fill Adams St. eyesore

By Kate Briquelet

Downtown is getting high-

end beef, sweets and a dash of Vegas entertainment now that two more chain eateries are moving to Adams Street — the latest explosions in a restaurant boom

that includes Shake Shack and Panera Bread.

Sugar and Plumm, a dessert eatery, and American BBQ and Beer Company, a brand new venture by a Las Vegas hotel developer, each signed 20-year leases at 345 See **CHAINS** on page 17

Theater is porn to be mild

Boro's last triple-X house shows the classics, too!

Bv Eli Rosenberg The Brooklyn Paper

At the last adult movie theater in Brooklyn, you'll come for the porn, but you'll stay for the classics.

Sure, Midwood's Cinema Kings Highway makes its bones as the borough's last smut house. but insiders know that if they head upstairs, they'll broaden their choices from merely "gay" or "straight" to include some of the 20th century's finest films.

The other night, the classics room at the moviehouse between E. Seventh and E. Eighth streets was showing "Papillon," the Oscar-nominated Steve Mc-Oueen classic from 1973. Another time. customers taking a break from "Shaving Ryan's Privates" got a chance to watch the porn version's Steven Spielberg-directed inspiration.

The man working the ticket booth, who did not wish to be named, said the place draws a good mix of both pornophiles and old-fashioned cinema-freaks



ater, you can catch "Shaving Ryan's Privates" as well as its Steven Spielberg-directed inspiration.

"Everybody has a different choice. Some like the porno and some like the The Triple-X Cinema Kings was built as the Jewel Theater in 1937, and

was once a beautiful building with Art

Deco features. Local legend holds that

the Jewel was where a young Woody Allen nourished his talent on a steady diet of foreign films. But a fire ravaged the joint in the 1960s and the owners changed it into the type of theater where you were more likely to see "Muffy the Vampire Layer" than 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer.'

Said another way, the Cinema Kings would sooner show "Good Will Humping" than "Good Will Hunting."

But now the moviehouse shows the pornography in two 15-seat theaters downstairs, while real cinephiles head to the 200-seat theater upstairs to watch the classics.

And that's the key to keeping this operation running in a residential area, as Giuliani-era rules don't classify businesses as adult establishments unless at least 60 percent of the space is set aside for "legitimate" offerings. Such rules helped speed the decline

of porno theaters, which of course, were once a staple of the New York See **PORN** on page 17



Brooklyn Dodgers icon Gil Hodges was passed over again by the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Bummed' out

Hall of Fame still eludes Gil Hodges

By Daniel Bush The Brooklyn Paper

Gil's been snubbed again — this time by his own friends!

The Baseball Hall of Fame's new "Golden Era Committee" - which almost seemed as if it had been created to give Gil Hodges one more shot at Cooperstown — declined on Sunday to enshrine the Dodger great, choosing less-than-legendary Chicago Cubs third

baseman Ron Santo instead. Nine members of the committee,

which included such known Hodges fans as Tommy Lasorda, Hank Aaron, Al Kaline and Ralph Kiner, voted for the induction of Hodges, three short of the 12 he needed.

Hodges's career stats — a lifetime .273 batting average, plus 370 homers, 1,274 RBIs, and 1,921 hits — are just

See HODGES on page 15

Artists chased from Clinton

By Aaron Short

The Brooklyn Paper

The Brooklyn artist collective, Rubulad, is leaving its Flushing Avenue warehouse after six years of throwing latenight revelries - pushed out by their

ultra-religious Hasidic neighbors. Rubulad's co-founders Chris Thomas and Sari Rubinstein considered putting in \$40,000 to fix up the Flushing building, but personal complaints from their Orthodox neighbors convinced them to move.

"The people surrounding us felt really upset about 'public nudity,' which was actually just people wearing shorts,

said Rubinstein, "There's no way our people aren't going to walk through the neighborhood in shorts and shortsleeve shirts in the summer, so we feel we'd be better off in another neighborhood.' The Warhol-inspired Rubulad loft has

See ARTISTS on page 15

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Don't kid yourself: children need flu shots, too.

Each year, millions of American adults suffer from the flu. For most people it's a mild illness. For older people, the flu can be very serious, even life-threatening.

But did you know that children are also particularly vulnerable to the flu? In fact, 115 kids under 18 in America died from flurelated causes last year, underscoring the importance of annual vaccinations and antiviral treatment for children.

Many people think healthy kids can easily withstand the flu, but about half of the children who died had healthy medical histories.

In the September 15 edition of *Health-Day News*, Dr. Kenneth Bromberg, director of The Brooklyn Hospital Center's Vaccine Research, said, "The fact that children die from influenza may not be adequately appreciated. Vaccinating children protects the whole population, other family members and children who may not be protected against influenza. It is clearly the right thing to do for everyone."

To schedule a flu shot for your child, contact your pediatrician or call our Children's Health Center at **718.250.8671.**

A simple lesson in keeping your children healthy and safe at school.

You've gotten your kids all the school supplies they need. You're boning up on your math so you can help with their homework. But making sure they're healthy and safe is probably the best way to equip your children for success in school.

So have your child's vision and hearing tested, and make sure their immunizations are up to date. If your child has a physical impairment or medical condition, make the school aware of it. And tell the school immediately if you suspect a learning disability.

See that your child always eats a healthy, nutritious breakfast and lunch. Make sure the school has your current contact information on file. And, if your child is still anxious and apprehensive several weeks after starting the new school year, notify their teacher so you can work out a solution.

Call our Children's Health Center at **718.250.8761** if you would like to schedule a checkup for your child.







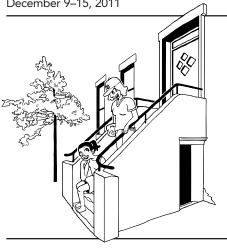




When your child is seriously ill...

The most advanced care is close to home. The Brooklyn Hospital Center's new Pediatric Intensive Care Unit offers comprehensive pediatric services in a state-of-the-art facility. With six private rooms, it's also the most compassionate, comfortable setting for pediatric patients and their parents. This facility offers the best care close to home for children with serious medical conditions while allowing their families to remain with them.

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NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG



Promising artist Mathieu Lefevre was killed when his bicycle was run down in Williamsburg.

Driver knew!

Cops: Trucker must have known he'd killed cyclist

By Aaron Short The Brooklyn Paper

The Williamsburg cyclist killed by a truck driver last month was not cruising in the driver's blind spot, but

was actually rear-ended by the trucker, a just-released bombshell accident report reveals Bike advocates and the victim's mother seized on the

report as evidence that driver Leonard Degianni certainly knew that he had run down and killed Mathieu Lefevre as he turned from

Streets

The battle for Brooklyn's byways

Morgan Street onto Meserole Street at just around midnight on Oct. 19.

Degianni left the scene of the crash, yet was

not charged, which has infuriated activists.

"My son is dead, he cannot speak for himself, but I

can speak out about how this case has been handled by the NYPD and how the lives of other cyclists and pedestrians can be saved if the laws are enforced making the streets safer for everyone," Lefevre's grief-stricken mother said last Wednesday at a protest at police headquarters in Manhattan. She accused the NYPD of "rushing to clear the driver of any wrongdoing. The original accident report indicated that Lefevre was

in Degianni's blind spot on Morgan Avenue, but the updated report states that Degianni actually rear-ended the 30-year-old cyclist, who was a major art world figure. Degianni declined to comment, and a police spokesman

had no additional statement about the accident report. But cycling advocates had plenty to say, stepping up their fight for a crackdown on reckless drivers. Transportation Alternatives has threatened to launch an investiga-

tion into department's traffic-enforcement practices. "It's the NYPD's job to keep dangerous driving in check by holding reckless drivers accountable, but they are simply not taking that job seriously," said Paul Steely

White, executive director of Transportation Alternatives. "Their cavalier attitude to the epidemic of lawless driving is absolutely unacceptable. Cycling accidents have steadily risen. From 2001 to

2010, 1,754 pedestrians and cyclists were killed in accidents citywide — 60 percent of which were due to a driver's dangerous or illegal behavior.

COBBLE HILL



SOLD! This MTA building on Smith Street will get spruced up now that it has been bought, the

A makeover?

New owners promise to spruce up Smith St shaft

By Natalie O'Neill The Brooklyn Paper

A team of luxury condo architects will morph a muchbemoaned Smith Street monolith into a posh mixed-

The MTA has sold its drab, two-story building at Wyckoff Street for \$3.5 million — and and new plans call for tearing down walls to build residential and com-

mercial units at the site. The buyer has since commissioned Manhattan-based Grasso-Menziuso Architects — a firm known for its sprawling yellow beachfront condos in Queens for the

The windowless two-story building — once dubbed

the "top 10 ugliest" in the city — went on the market three years ago, when neighbors feared it would become a McDonald's. An agent with the architecture group promised on

Friday that it would not become a fast-food joint — although the only detail he would provide was a vague

"We are proud of all of our projects," he said. The firm's past buildings are neither loved or loathed

and include Belle Shores Condominium, sprawling yellow condos in southern Queens, and the brick-front Cleveland-Pitkin Homes in East New York. City building records note plans for the site — at 166

Smith St. — include demolition and "altered additions," such as easements and ventilation shafts.

Whatever happens to the site will likely to be an improvement — at least aesthetically: In 2008, AM New York put the building on its "10 to Lose" list, which names the 10 ugliest buildings in the city. Writers at the time joked the concrete-encased eyesore appeared to be able to "withstand a nuclear blast."

RED HOOK

Call it the B61 bomber

Report: Red Hook bus line stinks

By Natalie O'Neill The Brooklyn Paper

The main bus out of trans-

portation-starved Red Hook arrives too late or doesn't stop at all, according to a scathing new report. Fewer than half of the

buses on the B61 line which runs from Red Hook to Downtown via Park Slope arrived on time during "peak hours" and the rest showed up at least three minutes early or late, according to an exhaustive survey put together by Councilman Brad Lander (D-Park Slope) and dozens of volunteers.

Many of the buses were too crowded, arrived erratically, or were bunched up with other buses.

Only 43 percent arrived on time during rush hour nearly two times worse than the B44, which the Straphangers Campaign named the least reliable "key route." In an extreme example, only

42 percent of scheduled B61 buses showed up at the Columbia Street-Union Street bus

By Aaron Short

Workers saved an historic

bell and other artifacts from

an out-of-business church in

Williamsburg days before the

edifice was turned over to a

new owner who may level

the whole N. Sixth Street

spent much of last Thursday

furiously removing stained

glass windows, an altar, and a

two-ton bronze bell from the

vacant 142-year-old St. Vin-

cent De Paul Church, which

was sold after the struggling

religious organization de-

cided that it was too expen-

130-year-old bronze bell

first Catholic bishop, Rev.

John Loughlin — was the

objects will remain in the Di-

ocese's East New York ware-

house until they are claimed

by other parishes in Brooklyn

ing removed from its tower

unnerved neighbors who

were baptized at the church

and sent their children to its

'This is an emotional day,'

said Williamsburg resident

Michelle Rodecker, who

hosted Neighbors Allied for

Good Growth's first meeting

and Queens for use. The sight of the bell be-

school.

It and the other religious

- blessed by Brooklyn's

2,977-pound

sive to maintain.

The Brooklyn Diocese

The Brooklyn Paper

complex.

WILLIAMSBURG



as you can see from this typical scene, most riders

Church-bell weathered!

Relics saved from closed N. Sixth Street church

stop during rush hour. Others exceed city capacity limits of 54 persons per bus and arrived 20 minutes late, according to the study.

The findings are nothing new to residents from Red Hook and the Columbia Waterfront District, but are particularly infuriating because there are so few other trans-

portation options — especially after the MTA cut the B71 bus, one of Red Hook's only other options.

It also doesn't help that the city shuttered the Smith-Ninth Street subway station for renovations on the Carroll Gardens-Red Hook border, further isolating the neigh-

from bad to worse," said Mark Fass, who says that he sometimes waits 40 minutes in the cold when taking his young daughter to school in Brooklyn Heights in the morning. 'It's untenable." That's why Lander is de-

manding that the MTA: Add more B61 buses from 7-9 am and 5-7 pm, and extend the nearby B57 line, which currently runs from Vinegar Hill to Carroll Gardens, into Red Hook. Lander also wants the agency to provide a satelliteguided tracking system so riders know when the buses will actually arrive, the same system that B63 riders currently enjoy.

"It's no secret the B61 is not adequately serving riders." said Lander, who rallied locals on Monday. "Service is poor.'

He ought to know. Lander's volunteers collected data from 700 buses during 64 shifts this summer.

A spokeswoman for the MTA noted, "We are reviewing the report and will work with [elected officials] to address the concerns.

dled with holes from miss-

ing bricks and shingles, and

the cross was removed two

Neighborhood church

leaders estimated it would

cost close to \$4 million to

repair the church — but with

a dwindling congregation

and depleted funds, the Di-

ocese signed off on the sale

as part of a spate of church

residential development up

to 50 feet tall, but a church

clause prohibits any "sordid

use" such as a bar or liquor-

the church and put up a strip

bar," said Joseph Calise, pas

tor of the nearby Our Lady

Other residents hoped the

"It's not a landmark?

Wow!" said Williamsburg

resident Ruth Rodriguez.

of old Brooklyn here." For much of the 20th cen-

We need to keep a litle bit

tury, St. Vincent's served Wil-

liamsburg's Irish-American

immigrants, while Italians went to Our Lady of Mount

Carmel on Havemeyer Street:

and Lithuanians and Ger-

mans worshipped at Blessed

Virgin Mary of the Annun-

ciation three blocks south on

It closed in 2005.

N. Fifth Street.

church would not be replaced with a new condo.

"It's not OK to close down

serving restaurant.

Current zoning permits

years ago.

mergers.

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Grace Church School starts a 9th grade class

With the approval from the Landmarks Preservation Committee, Grace Church School, an independent school in Greenwich Village, has begun renovations of its new high school division, located at 38-50 Cooper Square. Grace is removing the 14 brown, dome-shaped awnings that have dominated Cooper Square for decades, and, in the coming months, will install a modern school marquee.

The high school will open with its inaugural 9th grade class in September 2012 having a capacity of 80 students per grade. The innovative program will incorporate student-centered learning, real world application of skills, and community engagement. It will also offer travel programs to Europe and East Asia and, for 10th graders, a month long internship with working professionals.

For additional information on the high school division of Grace Church School, contact Kate Marcus at 212-475-5609 x204.

FORT GREENE

Clean slate for Navy Yard

City council approves demolition of Admirals Row

By Kate Briquelet The Brooklyn Paper The City Council unan-

imously approved the redevelopment of Admirals Row on Tuesday — giving the Brooklyn Navy Yard a clean slate to build a major supermarket after years of battling preservationists, a tug-of-war with the feds over ownership of the historic site, and losing its original developer to a bribery scandal. City officials will now

move forward to find a new developer for the six-acre site by the end of the year, bulldozing a slew of historic, but decaying, buildings to make room for a 250-car parking lot, and most important, a grocery store that many see as a dire need in the immediate area. Plans for a \$60-million

ShopRite supermarket col-

lapsed earlier this year, when

the city's chosen developer,

Aaron Malinsky, was ar-

rested in a bribery scandal

alongside state Sen. Carl



rals Row supermarket, but it shows the basic idea.

Kruger (D-Mill Basin). There's no word on a new development team yet. Still, local pols were thrilled by the Council ap-

proval, considering that city planners have eyed the site for decades, but only jumpstarted the project in June. "For 20 years, the Navy

cifically to serve the local

neighborhood," said Coun-

cilwoman Letitia James (D-

Fort Greene), adding, "This

Yard has made it clear that redevelopment of Admirals Row site is necessary, spe-

is great news on many lev-But lovers of historic build-

ings were furious, given that Admirals Row along Flushing Avenue contains a dozen 19th-century structures on a site currently owned by the National Guard Bureau. The city will acquire the land and then raze all but two of the

Bankoff, executive director of

dozen buildings. 'This is a complete failure of the system and the government to maintain its historic buildings," said Simeon

The Admirals Row is a relic of the days when na-

cil. "It's a disgrace."

the Historic Districts Coun-

val officers and their families lived on the site. Over the past few years, the fight over the once-grand structures became heated as many locals championed the idea of a new supermarket while others argued that the more pressing need was the preservation of historic buildings. City officials disagreed,

saying that the buildings were 'too far gone" and that the fastest way to redevelop the site would be to tear them "This is the economically viable option," Kim-

ball said. Still, history buffs will always have the Timber

Shed. The next developer—who will enter a long-term lease will be required to reha-

bilitate the structure used to store ship's masts, as well as Building B, an officer's

cent de Paul Church on N. Sixth Street in Williamsburg on Wednesday. The building has been sold to a developer.

The three-story brick building was designed by prolific religious architect

Patrick Keely in 1869, but has fallen into disrepair a tree has been growing in its bell tower, the roof is rid-

Workers removed a 130-year-old bell from St. Vin-

Teens beat up man at Buttermilk Channel

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens-Cobble

Hill-Red Hook Court crack

A group of teenage goons attacked a 38-year-old on Court Street on Dec. 2, leaving him with a smattering of bruises.

The victim was having a cigarette outside of Buttermilk Channel near Nelson Street at 9:50 pm when the teens - for no apparent reason — ran up and punched him in the face.

the victim chased the teens around the corner, where the

ishment — with only one explanation given.

'That's how I roll," the victim recalled one of the

a 42-year-old man just paces from his Pioneer Street home

The victim was approaching his address between Richards and Van Brunt streets at 1.30 am when the suspect approached and flashed a fire-

"Keep walking," the thief ordered before knocking his victim to the ground in one his iPhone and wallet.

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customer's expectations before, during, and after the job!

Car swipe

A thieftook a 2007 Mitsubishi Outlander on Butler Street on Nov. 28 — only to get in a crack up a few blocks away.

The owner of the car said that the thief plucked the kevs from his jacket pocket before snagging the Outlander from between Hovt and Smith streets sometime after 8 am.

The vehicle was recovered that afternoon on Wyckoff Street near Bond Street later that afternoon — with some extensive front-end damage, police said.

Cellphone grab

Two teenage thugs jumped a 15-year-old on Smith Street

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

on Nov. 29 — taking his cell-

The victim was near President Street at 4:20 pm when the goons threw him against a car, put him in a headlock. and ran off with his property. — Thomas Tracy

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

Upfront thief Some punk stole a fancy

set of headphones on Fulton Street on Dec 1.

The victim was between Waverly and Washington avenues at around 2:30 pm when he was approached by the perp.

'Give me your headphones, or I will rip them off your neck," the thug barked. True to his word, he did just that, taking the \$250 cans right off the man's body, cops said.

Pocketed

A thief snagged a man's cellphone at Fort Greene Place on Dec. 1.

The victim was between Lafavette and Dekalb avenues at around 2:45 pm when the thief approached and asked, "What you got in your pockets?"

He didn't wait for an answer before reaching into the victim's jacket pocket and snagging his Samsung cell before fleeing, cops said.

G'd up

A pickpocket snagged a wallet on a Queens-bound G train on Dec. 1.

The victim told cops that he left the fabled Brooklyn Local at the Lafavette Avenue station at around 11:30 pm and noticed that his wallet, containing \$40 and cards, was missing.

Before he could contact his bank, he was alerted to \$416

in unauthorized charges. Cell shocked

A thug bashed a man in the face, then swiped his cellphone on Fulton Street on Dec. 2.

The victim told police that he was at Clermont Avenue at around 3 pm when he heard footsteps behind him. Before he could turn around, a man slugged him in the face and wrestled the cellphone from his hand.

Crooks corner

A burglar stole nearly \$2,000 worth of computer equipment and other stuff from a man's car on South Portland Avenue on Nov.

The victim parked near Atlantic Avenue at 10 am and returned a half-hour later to find that the lock on the passenger-side door had been damaged and that his Dell laptop, hard drive, eyeglasses, computer bag and software had been plundered.

— Colin Mixson

77TH PRECINCT Three crimes **Prospect Heights** There were at least three

You're kidding! break-ins last week: • A thief stole a computer

Two people were robbed by gunman in a hooded veatshirt early on Dec. 1. Here are the details:

• The the first case, the 26vear-old victim told cops that she was between Washington and Underhill avenues when she was approached by the teenager, who brandished a small silver gun and said, "Give me all you got." The lady handed over her expen-

sive leather bag and fled. · In the second case, the 27-year-old victim told cops that he was between Washington and Classon avenues at 1:30 am when a young crook meeting the same description and brandishing the same gun and said, "Do vou have a phone? Give me everything you got."

The victim handed over his Nokia phone and \$25 before the crook fled.

Tired out

Thieves removed the tires and rims from a car on Park Place on Dec. 2

The 46-year-old owner told cops that he parked between Underhill and Washington avenues at 4:20 am, returning at 2 pm to find his Toyota completely dewheeled.

Bagged

A sneaky crook swiped a bag from a woman at the supermarket on Vanderbilt Avenue on Nov. 29.

The 57-year-old victim told cops that she was inside the Met Foods between Park and Prospect places at 6 pm when she put her bag down. A half-hour later, it was gone.

Eli Rosenberg

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Engine runnin'

A brazen jerk stole a fancv engine system from a metalworks shop on 14th Street

on Nov. A 26-year-old employee told cops a crook sneaked into DVS Iron and Aluminum Works near Third Avenue at

around noon, snatched a power

brakes unit for - worth more \$6,000 — then fled. Flood freight

A jerk broke into an apartment on Lincoln Place and left an expensive mess on

Nov. 29. The 28-year-old victim told cops that she left her brownstone near Fifth Avenue at 3 pm, came back two days later to discover that someone had broken into the basement, busting a water pipe and causing a

But the thief left without taking anything.

Company ride

A jerk stole a new car on Fifth Street on Nov. 28.

The victim told cops that she parked her company's 2011 Ford Escape near Sixth Avenue at 8 pm, then returned the next day at 11 am to discover that the vehicle was gone.

Film foe

A crook swiped some video gear from a car on Flatbush Avenue on Nov. 25.

The 34-year-old victim told cops that he parked his gray 2007 Honda on the quiet and thief-friendly area near Empire Boulevard at 1 pm then came back five days later. That's when he discovered four cameras, a video recorder and headphones gone.

– Natalie O'Neill

90TH PRECINCT

Southside-Bushwick Bad day, mate

Two perps mugged an Australian tourist on the Manhattan-bound L-train

near Montrose Avenue on Dec. 1. The perps approached the victim when the train was

5:10 am, then pushed him out when the doors opened. That's when one of the thugs shouted, "Give me your stuff," before remov-

ing the victim's wallet and

near Bushwick Avenue at

boarding the next Manhattan-bound train.

House call

his phone.

Two knife-wielding perps

invaded a man's Ainslie

Street apartment on Nov.

29 and stole his cash and

legs and arms and stealing his

and \$150 from a McKibbin

Street loft on Dec. 2. The ten-

ant left his apartment near

White Street at 2:45 pm, but

came back a half-hour later

to find his cash and laptop

· A thief stole two com-

puters and a camera from an

apartment on Broadway near

Kean Street between 9 am

watch, laptop and booze from

his S. Second Street apart-

ment during the Thanksgiv-

near Berry Street on Nov.

23 at 8:30 am, but when he

returned three days later, he

saw his stuff was missing.

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint-Northside

A thief brutally mugged

man after tricking him

into meeting him on Jack-

son Street to buy some auto

The victim met the perp

parts from him on Dec. 3.

between Graham Avenue and

Humboldt Street at around

11:45 pm, intending to sell

him car rims and headlights.

But the "client" had a differ-

ent idea, throwing the vic-

tim to the ground, snagging

a \$1,000 from the man's back

He also drove off with the

Some punk snatched a

The victim was on the

woman's purse at Manhat-

tan and Meeker avenues on

corner at 9:30 am when the

thief came from behind and

shoved her, before snatch-

contained her wallet, eve-

Three thugs brutally beat a

The victim, 17, had just left

man and snagged his iPhone

at the Metropolitan Avenue

Automotive HS and was enter-

ing the subway station and Lo-

rimer Street at 4:30 pm when

one of the perps approached

and put an arm around the vic-

you," the punk sneered, be-

'They're trying to rob

glasses, and cash.

Un-friendly

G train on Dec. 3.

tim's shoulder.

auto parts and some phone

Purse punked

pocket.

Nov. 29.

cards, cops said.

Crooked client

— Aaron Short

The tenant left the unit

· A thief stole a man's

and 8 pm on Nov. 30.

computer gone.

ing holiday.

wallet and cellphone.

The victim headed the other direction to return to his hotel before calling the cops.

the victim's smartphone. Bicycle thief A bike-riding thief stole What a drag

an iPhone from a woman on Keap Street on Dec. 3. pocketbook on N. Henry

The woman told cops that Street on Dec. 4. she was near Hope Street at The woman was between 5:15 pm when the cycling Driggs and Engert avenues scumbag rolled up from at around 2:50 pm when the behind her and snatched the perp grabbed her purse and phone from her hand. dragged her across the sidewalk.

> The thug finally wrestled the satchel free and fled with credit cards, cash, a cellphone and keys.

fore he and two other brutes

attacked, punching the vic-

tim in the face and kicking

iPunked

A thief stole a man's iP-The perps entered the apartment near Leonard Street at 10:20 pm, flashed hone inside the L-train station at N. Seventh Street on their knives and pushed the Nov. 28. tenant inside before taping his

The victim said he was exiting the station at Bedford Avenue at 7:30 pm when the punk snagged the man's phone. The victim pursued, but the thief outran him.

Delivery drag

A robber broke into a man's delivery truck and stole cash on Manhattan Avenue

The trucker had parked between Norman and Nassau avenues to make a delivery at 12:55 pm — but when he returned 15 minutes later, he discovered that a thief had broken a lock and stolen a cash-filled wooden box from between the front seats.

– Colin Mixson

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO-Boerum Hill-

Downtown **Flat-bergasted**

A thief stole 2,000 phone cards from a car on Atlantic Avenue on Dec. 1 — while the vehicle's owner was changing a flat tire!

The owner told police that he was fixing the punctured rubber between Third and Fourth avenues at 1 pm, but didn't realize that the phone cards had been taken until 20 minutes later.

House break-in

A thief stole electronics from a Schermerhorn Street home on Nov. 29.

The occupant said he left the apartment, which is between Hoyt and Bond streets. at 4 pm. When he returned at 5:20 pm, the front door was unlocked and a television and two MP3 players were missing.

Cell swipe

A crook stole a man's cellphone on Henry Street on Nov. 27 — while its owner was texting and walking!

The victim said he was sending an SMS message near Orange Street at 10:20 pm when the thief grabbed his phone and fled. ing the woman's purse, which

Phone flop

Two thieves stole a womn's cellphone at the Lawrence Street subway station - but the device was recovered after police arrested a pair of men.

The victim was on the R train platform at the station near Willoughby Street at 10:25 pm when the crooks grabbed her phone.

But the victim got the phone back moments later after police stopped two men who they said had stolen the device.

Cash missing

A thief stole \$8,900 from a Remsen Street apartment overnight on Nov. 22.

One of the thugs then took The victim said she left her home between Clinton and Henry streets at 9 pm. When she returned the next A thief stole a woman's day at 1:30 pm, the cash was

Movie madness A woman stole another

missing.

woman's wallet after the two fought inside a Court Street movie theater on Nov. 28.

The victim said she started arguing with the other woman inside of a bathroom at the cinema at State Street at 4:20 pm. The altercation spilled out into the hallway, where the thief grabbed her wallet and fled.

Armed robbery

Gun-toting thugs stole a man's cellphone on Cadman Plaza West on Dec. 2.

The victim said that he was near Water Street at 3 pm when the men approached, displayed a gun and one said, Yo, give it up!' The man tried to flee, but

the crooks stole his cellphone before he could escape. Daniel Bush

68TH PRECINCT Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights

Cable why?

Thieves swiped thousands in telecommunications gear from a cable truck on Owls

Head Court on Dec. 1. The victim told cops that he went inside a customer's house between Bay Ridge Avenue and 68th Street at 1:30 pm. When he came back out less than an hour later, he found that perps had stolen \$2,900 in converter boxes, cables and modems.

1970s redux

Vandals tagged an R train while it sat idle overnight on

MTA officials told cops that the car had been left the spur track at 10:40 pm, but by next morning, workers discovered the words "Bad" and "Ph" sprayed on the train in turquoise, black and blue paint. The MTA estimated

the damage at \$800. Turkey bandits

Would-be bandits broke into a Ridge Boulevard apartment over the Thanksgiving weekend and rearranged a few things, but did not steal

The victim told cops that she left her house between 85th and 86th streets at 1:30 pm on Nov. 24. When she returned on Nov. 28, she found glue on her door handle, and her possessions moved around.

Golden ticket

Thugs swiped nearly \$3,000 in iewelry and cash from a woman on Fifth Avenue on Nov. 28 after she refused to help cash a purportedly winning lottery

ticket. The victim told cops that she was sitting in her car between 74th street and Bay Ridge Parkway at 1 nm when a man and a woman approached and asked for help cashing their winning ticket. She refused, so the pushy punks demanded her

cash and bangles. Fifth Avenue and Bay Ridge Parkway

- Dan MacLeod

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teens saying. Pistols whip A gun-toting thief held up

Witnesses told police that

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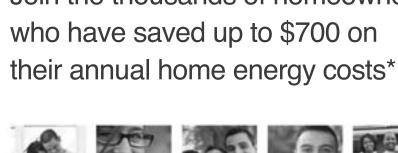
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The secret's out!

Under pressure, Bklyn Bridge Park reveals its hotel selection committee members

By Kate Briquelet The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Bridge Park has released the names of the city officials who will ultimately decide which hotel and luxury condo complex is built on Pier 1 — and locals are outraged that half of them are secretive park insiders.

Park staffers were under pressure from the community on Monday when they revealed the four members on the heretofore mysterious selection committee: Regina Myer and David Lowin of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation; Joshua Laird of the Parks Department; and Joshua Gelfman of the Economic Development Corporation.

A spokeswoman for the park defended the original secrecy as standard "city practice," but agreed to officially reveal the names because the officials' identities had become known to a handful of residents on the park's pow-



Regina Myer — she's on the hotel panel.

erless "community advisory

But the park's about-face only enraged park-lovers who are calling the entire selection process "undemocratic."

"How is it that these four people — two from a public authority with an agenda — have so much power and authority over something so important?" said Doreen Gallo, the executive director of the Dumbo Neighborhood Alliance, referring to Myer's and Lowin's powerful positions on the Brooklyn Bridge Park

Development Corporation.
"It's unbelievable, it's a shame and the public is just going to go along with it," she said.

Locals and members of the park's community advisory council were infuriated last month after park bigwigs presented seven proposals for a high-end hotel but wouldn't reveal who was on the project's selection committee—saying that the city would choose a developer behind closed doors before spring.

Seven big names in real estate including Toll Brothers, RAL Companies, and Two Trees Management are vying to build luxury hotel and residential complex along Furman Street, just south of a park entrance at the foot of Old Fulton Street.

The winning firm would build a 170- to 225-room hotel, a 150- to 180-unit residential building, a restaurant, and at least 300 parking spaces, according to city's plan. Taxes from the complex will go toward the park's \$16-million annual maintenance budget.

Sandy Balboza, president of Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association, slammed the insider committee for including the public only to the extent of accepting e-mail critiques.

"They say we're allowed to testify and that we're involved, but we're not," said Balboza, who is also park advisory council member. "These are four city employees who are making the final decision about a hotel project that the public doesn't even want.

"It's not only unfortunate, it's outrageous," she added. "The taxpayers are putting money into this, and we don't have a say in anything."

Brooklyn Bridge Park is accepting public comments via e-mail to brooklynbridgepark@bbpnyc.org until Dec. 22.

FIELDS...

enade, playground and barbecue station at the five-acre

pier at the southern leg of the waterfront park.

Kelco — which is also building the controversial \$6.2-million Squibb Park

building the controversial \$6.2-million Squibb Park Bridge connecting Brooklyn Heights to Pier 1 — will complete the Pier 5 fields by next fall.

"Atthis point, it's so important that the more school with

tant spoint, it sso important that we move ahead with recreation on Pier 5," said Regina Myer, president of Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation. "The challenge for us will be maximizing the use of these piers for four seasons."

In October, Brooklyn Bridge Park announced that it had received no bids from developers to build the enclosed "bubble" and wouldn't look for other contractors — effectively killing the project.

The facility — which would have been open from December to March — had no rest rooms or locker rooms, and the operator would pay for maintenance, operations and off-season storage.

The city vowed to spend up to \$750,000 on construction, but the developer would be responsible for everything beyond that.

Critics accused park officials of scuttling the "bubble" by setting unfeasible and uneconomical requirements for developers.

"This was designed to fail," said Roy Sloane, president of the Cobble Hill Association. "[Under city rules], developers would have to put in a lot of money, have it open only four months a year, and charge very reasonable prices. Did that sound like something the city was serious about?"

For 30 years, community advocates pushed for an indoor recreational hub in the style of the Corona Park Pool and Rink in Queens, the largest complex ever built in a city park. Indeed, the park's original master plan in 2000 called for turning the pier's freight shed into an indoor/outdoor pool and playing field with the help of a private developer.

But that shed was demol- to funding. In 2009, Mayor

ished. And then, five years later, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation created a new project plan that called for a seasonal and "lightweight" structure — instead of Brooklyn's an-

swer to Chelsea Piers.

Now without weatherproof recreation, the park
will be a dead zone in winter, said Judi Francis, presi-

dent of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Defense Fund.

"The community never wanted a temporary bubble," she said. "We always planned for a permanent pool and indoor playing field. What do you do in the middle of the winter or the depths of summer when there's no relief from the sun? The new plan didn't work."

SQUIBB...

Continued from page 1

A former city official, who asked not to be named, said that \$4.9 million "sounded too low for the bridge," and that the over-budgeting was "not at all surprising."

The former official said that city agencies will often narrow the scope of a project — or scrap it altogether — to make up for funding gaps. For instance, when the MTA was extending the No. 7 train to Times Square in 2008, it killed one of two stations in the project to save money.

The Squibb Park Bridge has always had a rocky road to funding. In 2009, Mayor

Bloomberg trimmed \$8 million from Brooklyn Bridge Park's construction budget, killing the footbridge until the Council and Borough President Markowitz allocated money the following year.

Roy Sloane, president of the Cobble Hill Association, said the bridge was mainly an amenity to the future hotel slated for Pier 1 and should be paid for by a developer, not city taxpayers.

"Why can't the hotel build its own bridge?" Sloane said. "This is the kind of cost inflation the park has incurred all along, only to suit a massive real estate development."



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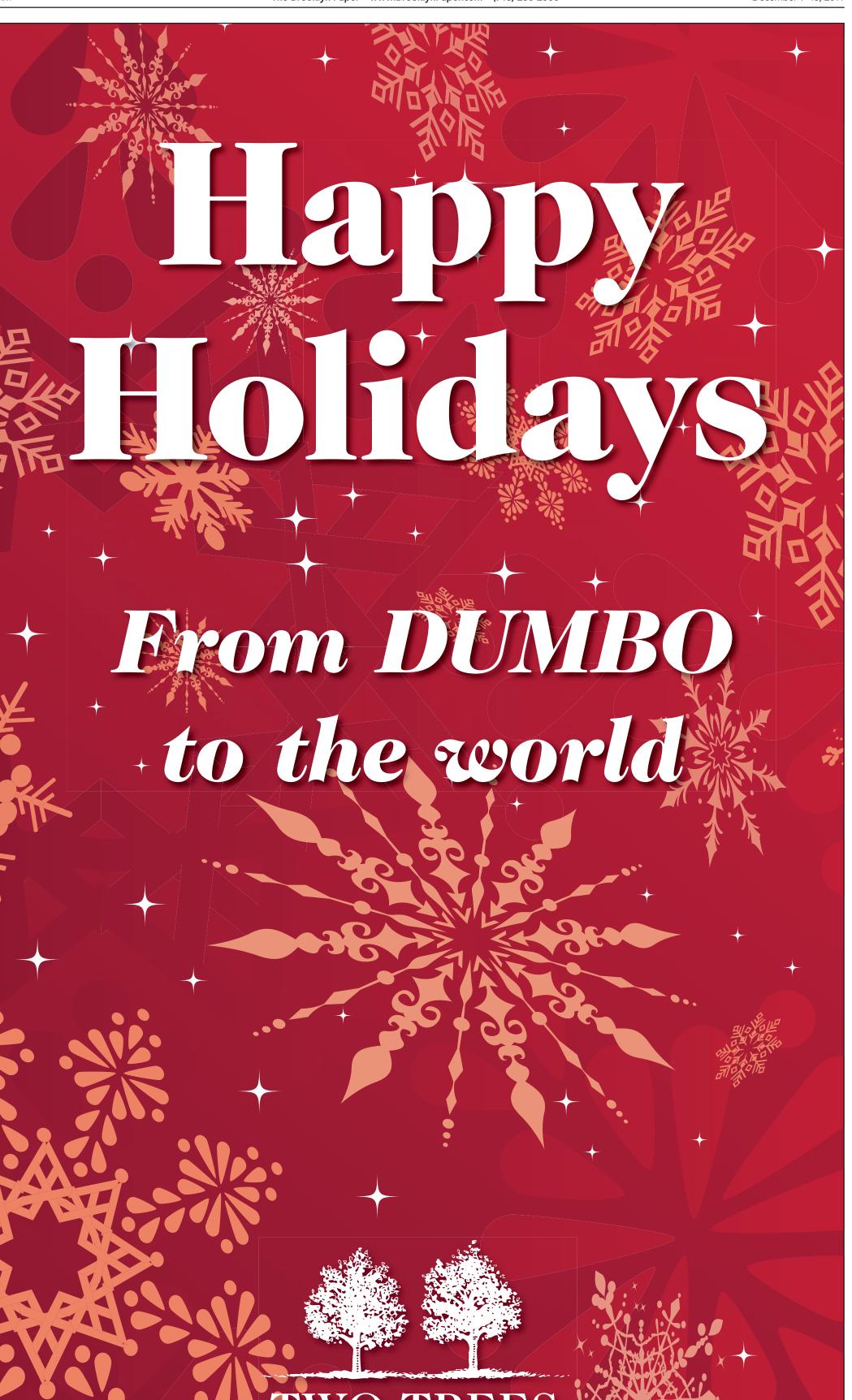


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'Non-Christmas' artwork will stay at gallery

By Natalie O'Neill

The Brooklyn Paper Con Edison has decided not to pull the plug on a holiday art show featuring "pagan"-themed pieces by a Park Slope artist, changing its corporate mind after a BrooklynPaper.com article highlighted

Judith Z. Miller — who explores spiritual themes by carving animals into tree trunks was asked to remove her art from the lobby of the Con Ed building on Flatbush Avenue after workers complained that it lacks holiday spirit.

"Employees demand a festive lobby ... during the Christmas s," curator Leon Kalas emailed Miller last week, demanding she pack up her wooden doves and dragons.

Miller—who is Jewish by birth and Pagan by approach — was poised to remove the artwork on reprieve from the energy giant.

"Some employees felt the work didn't capture the holiday spirit, but we are leaving it up through the end of the month as originally planned," the company said in an unsigned statement issued to BrooklynPaper.com on Tuesday.

Miller praised the paper, as well as her own pushiness, for getting Con Ed to see the light and avoid what she called the Santa-andsleigh bells aesthetics of a suburban strip mall.

"Once Con Ed realized that the media was aware of their wrongful treatment of me, they suddenly changed their tune," she said. "Prior to this, they figured, I guess, that I would go away quietly while they imposed 'default Christianity.'

"But I was taught by my mother at an early age to speak up when I saw anyone mistreated," Miller Wednesday, but got a last-minute continued. "Also, I have a lifelong



Con Ed Gallery curator Leon Kalas was all smiles about Judith Z. Miller's "pagan"themed, nature-influenced work. But he later flip-flopped, and ordered it removed until a ConEd reprieve saved the day.

commitment to artistic freedom. The price we pay for silence is oppression.

She also demanded a personal rious.

about it.

other joke:

Before the "Miracle on 34th Street" ending, Miller was fu-

apology from Con Ed.

did you not even return my

phone calls?"
Whitehead's latest book, "Zone One," is a satirical take on the ever popular

zombie-horror genre set in

the Big Apple. The story isn't even set in Brooklyn, but our rapier-wielding critic still had nice things to say

Whitehead is either a phe-

nomenal talent or he's just

lucky that America has gone

all "post racial." And that

reminds Whitehead of an-

my slender, delicate fingers

and thin, feminine wrists,"

the author said. "[But] a skinny black man, with slen-

der fingers and thin femi-

nine wrists, has actually become president. So if it's ever

going to be our time, this is

Whitehead's laugh-a-

minute lecture is part of St.

Joseph's effort to link writ-

ers to their readers - and

would it be to have a writing

series where the speakers live

iust a few blocks away." said Richard Greenwald, dean of

academics at the college. "I

don't know many other towns

where something like this can

ing condoms to teens only en-

"I thought, 'How cool

pretty much it."

neighbors.

"I call your attention to

"They're making an assumption that Christmas is for everybody,' Miller said earlier this week. "It's so offensive.

She had agreed months ago to exhibit her work at the building near Fulton Street - where local artists showcase monthly exhibits free of rent — and hoped that the exposure would help her sell some of her art. She chose the month of December because it's gift-giving season, then signed a contract stipulating only that the pieces would not be "pornographic or religious" — but made no other

On Dec. 1, she moved her carvings into the lobby - but discovered that a large fake Christmas tree had taken up half the

promises in terms of content.

She got an e-mail from Kalas the same day demanding she take it down - pronto. "Your exhibit has been cancelled," he wrote. "[Con Edison] has the right to ask for a festive look during the holidays.'

He noted her art must gone by Dec. 7 — or Con Edison would

Kalas, himself an artist who once claimed to be censored back in 2007, told us that the exhibit was slated to be removed because it's a "safety hazard" because the wooden items "poke out" of the wall and "could injure employees."

He later added that Miller made a fuss about the proposed censorship for the purposes of self-

"She is a sick, disturbed woman," he said. "I gave her the space out of the goodness of my heart."

promotion.

But Miller didn't think of it as gift - "Holiday season" or otherwise.

"It just feels wrong," she said. Why does everything always have to be about Christmas?"

Con Edison Gallery [30 Flatbush Ave. between Livingston and Nevins streets, (718) 802-

Whitehead's hilarious angst

The Brooklyn Paper

The writer's life is filled with fear and loathing which reminds Colson Whitehead of a joke.

"I usually spend Wednesday night alone, going over my regrets. So this is a nice change of pace," the author of "The Intuitionist" and "John Henry Days" quipped at St. Joseph's College last Wednesday — a good setup to a hilarious evening listening to Whitehead dissect the essential angst of trying to make it as a writer.

By now, the Fort Greene author of four books and the essay collection "Colossus of New York" is a big-time literary star. But it wasn't always that way. And that reminds him of another joke, this time about the seemingly nonsensical lyrics of the Donna Summer song, "MacArthur Park":

"When I started get-

Continued from page 1

olate bunnies

lubricant."

an 18-year-old on her way to

college needed something a

bit more practical than choc-

nifty leather, wire or whicker

basket filled with condoms,

pregnancy tests and, of

"It's really a lovely lubri-

cant," Linn said. "You know,

the number one cause of con-

dom breakage is insufficient

come in several styles to fit

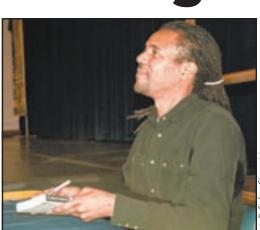
teenager's voraciousness).

10 lube packs, five feminine

cleansing cloths, three preg-

course, Liquid Silk.

By practical, Linn means a



Fort Greene author Colson Whitehead joked about his anxieties (yes, he has them) at St. Joseph's Colleae last week.

ting all these rejection letters, I sat around in my underwear, watching 'Jerry Springer' with the shades drawn, surrounded by Budweiser cans, and I finally got

lishing, why did you leave my cake out in the rain? ... Atlas Vanity Publishing of Secaucus, New Jersey, why the Boston Women's Health Care Collective celebrated compendium of how every-

thing works on a woman.

what the song was about," said the author. "Knopf Pub-

nancy tests, three bottles of Linn includes the book lubricant, and a travel pouch that holds just enough to get you through the weekend. in future psychiatric bills -A cheaper option is "The as the cherry on top. Essential" (\$105), which offers the same products, with

See Gersh fondle newest podcast! **BrooklynPaper.com**

Linn's "unmentionables" There's even "The Mister" (\$105), which bills itself as terknew or if she'd even seen all budgets (and, frankly, your "the basket for the guy who cares" (if you define "cares" There's "The Sophistias "always has condoms on cate" (\$155) a faux-leather box filled with 40 condoms,

of "Our Bodies, Ourselves,"

which can cost \$30 in a bookstore, but will save millions "I've been concerned with how little sex education kids

All baskets include a copy

"They're asking us to

screech to a halt after reach-

ing 25 miles-per-hour," said

Anthony Lowe, who belongs

seem to get," she said. "I didn't know what my daughcondoms. And 'Our Bodies'

is a classic.' Now, here's the part of the story where the writer typically calls up some anti-sex activist to talk about how giv-

to a bicycle racing team and

noted they recently fought a

similar battle in Central Park.

in New York City."

'There's nowhere left to train

Rules for two-wheeling

park users are perfectly fine

with two-legged park-goers,

courages them to use them. But this line of inquiry is so played out at this point that this writer prefers to just let Linn answer the criticism pre-emptively.

'Yes, some say the only safe sex is abstinence, but abstinence makes no sense,3 Linn said. "We know that teens are having sex. So our job is to make sure they know what they're doing and are doing it safely. Studies show that birth control does not encourage sex. The good news is that

her daughter loved her basket from "Unmentionable

"She e-mailed me to thank me," Linn said.

But what of the choco-

"I sent her a real Easter basket, too," she said.

For info, visit www.un-

who say the open space was

never meant to be a mini Tour

Forrest Cicogni, the husband

of the injured actress. "But

his is what we wanted — it's

a good first step.'

"The cops are late," said

de France.

mentionablethings.com.

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BIKES.

Continued from page 1

was struck by a 61-yearold cyclist in on West Lake Drive, leaving her so badly injured that doctors kept her in a medically induced coma.

And in June, 37-year-old actress Dana Jacks suffered brain damage after a cyclist collided with her in the same spot. She's planning to sue the city, citing the very lack of enforcement that apparently ends on Saturday.

Reducing speeding was a major theme at a mid-November public hearing on ending the battle over Prospect Park's roadways, where hazy rights of way have long made the roadway chaotic. The Department of Trans-

portation then responded by installing cones to slow cyclists on West Lake Drive. Police enforcement is the second wave of city action, with one officer citing the crashes as "the impetuous." The fliers that were

handed out on Thursday offer the usual safety tips, such as "do not bike with a dog on a leash" and "cyclists and skaters must travel clockwise.'

It also reminded cyclists of existing, but often flouted, rules, including that cyclists must have a bell, and cannot wear headphones and must stop at red lights.

The red light rule particularly angers some cyclists, who say the park's roadway is a sacred car-free spot unlike a normal street, where they're happy to stop for lights.

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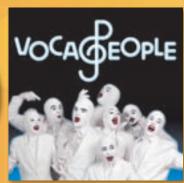
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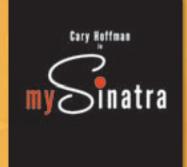
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*Spend \$50 or more pre-tax at a participating retailer, or spend \$50 or more pre-tax and pre-tip at a participating restaurant. **Only printed, dated, original register receipt for purchases made between Thursday, November 24, 2011 and Friday, December 23, 2011 are eligible. Minimum \$50 purchase must appear on one receipt. ***Limit one pair of tickets per household. Tickets are selected at sponsor's discretion and are available while supplies last. Tickets are valued at up to \$220 per pair, and will be mailed by January 27, 2012.



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The Brooklyn Papa

to the Borough of Kings

December 9-15, 2011

Cycle

Major League Dreidel returns to Knitting Factory

By Colin Mixson The Brooklyn Paper

he Festival of Light is just around the corner, which means it's time for another season of heart-stopping Major League Dreidel action.

The "season" begins (and ends) on Dec. 17, when hundreds of top-twirling athletes will face off in the "Spinagogue" in front of a crowd of at least 350 Jews (and more than a few sportloving gentiles).

It's a dreidel tornado.

"We started out with 32 spinners, which grew into 64 spinners and now this year we have 124 spinners," said Eric Pavony, the league's acting "Knishoner." "We have people coming in from across the country.

You don't need to be a bookie to know who the favorites are: 2010 champ Alan "Juspin Bieber" Black, and his ragged band of about 30 die-hard spinners, called Team Smoot, will again make the journey to Brooklyn from Ypsilanti, Mich.

"It all started with my friends who used to play at rock-paper-scissor tour-naments in Toronto, but that became too corporate, too mainstream," said Black. "Then we found out about driedel and that turned into the new thing to do.'

The rules of the game are simple, spin the four-sided top as fast as you can and pray that it gyrates longer than the other guy's. The trick is to keep your top in the center of the Jewish-star-shaped

EVENT

Major League Dreidel finals at the Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. between Havemeyer Street and Marcy Avenue in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6696], Dec. 17 at 6 pm. For info, visit www.majorleaguedreidel.com.





Spin this: (Pictured left) Eric Pavony, the acting "Knishoner" of Major Leage Dreidel, shows off the "Spinagogue," which is responsible for transforming the hobby from a casual pastime to a competetive sport. (Top) Pamskee won in 2007 with an eyepopping 17.88-second spin.

Spinagogue, this sport's "Friendly Con-

The Spinagogue has been widely credited with elevating the hobby of dreideling into the ranks of America's most-important sports.

"Before the Spinagogue, people just spun dreidels on kitchen tables," said Pavony. "This has two problems; one, it falls off and you lose your dreidel, and wo, with this vast space, you don't really give it much thought, you just spin. What we're looking for is spinners that have velocity and power, but also control and its the combination of those two elements that makes a dreidel champion.'

The fierce dreidel battles aren't the only draw to this pre-Hanukkah bash heavy metal band, Gods of Fire, is booked to rock the house with songs like "No Gelt, No Glory" from its classic album, "Hanukkah Gone Metal."

Hanukkah rock aside, the players are the attraction here.

'It's a really fun competition, everybody has a blast with their costumes and their names," said Chris Colluzi, who competes as Gentile Giant. "Eric created a really fun thing out of nothing."

The champion will receive a year's supply of chocolate coins and a crystal trophy, but there is another, far greater

"The trophy is engraved with the most important prize of all," said Pavony, "the title of Major League Dreidel champion, which entails glory, women and fame."

FESTIVAL

All tied up

Bring the kids—especially the art-inclined theater geeks—to the Bushwick Starr this weekend for the second annual Band of Puppets Fest, a festival featuring five new puppetry

plays set to the music of Michael Jackson. Yes, it's weird.

Expect a tabletop puppet made from a sweatshirt, a hat, and a pair of shoes; shadow

to "Beat It" and "Pretty



puppets using mirrors; and large-scale strungout marionettes dancing

Young Thing.'

Highlights include a play featuring an Old West chase scene, "Mr. Sweatshirt's" new dance will debut, and several other evocations of the late pop icon, according to producer Amanda Maddock.

I enjoyed seeing the works so far," said Maddock. "Everybody is trying to think about how to use a Michael Jackson song and tell stories in a visual form.'

Band of Puppets Fest at the Bushwick Starr [207 Starr St. between Wyckoff and Irving Avenues in Bushwick, (718) 306-2370], Dec. 8-11. Tickets, \$12 (free for kids under 18 at

CRAFT

Creepy Xmas

Deck the halls with skulls and insects fa la la la la lala la la!

The second annual Morbid Anatomy holiday fair - an oddball craft show hosted by a research library in Gowanus — is selling jewelry, art and other gifts for that special someone who's more into Tim Bur-tonthan Santa Claus

"Holiday fairs generally suck and ours isn't going to," said Joanna Ebenstein, founder of the Morbid Anatomy Library on Union Street. "This is for the people who are into the niche weird stuff you can't get anywhere else." This year, expect a load

of anthropomorphic taxidermy created by a former Museum of Natural History workerincluding beetles playing the piano - rare and obscure anatomy books, voodoo photographs, ceramic bat masks, sinister jewelry with gory vials and countless other artifacts, not to mention free Brooklyn Brewery beer.

"I don't think there's any holiday fair like this," Ebenstein said. "It's slightly goofy but also very elegant."

Morbid Anatomy Library [543 Union St. between Bond and Nevins streets in Gowanus, (718) 702-5937], Dec. 17 and 18, 12 to 6 pm. For info, visit morbidanatomy.blogspot.com. Kate Briquelet

MUSIC

Art of noise

Who says you need instruments to make music?

You don't, as artist Amy X Neuburg proves, turning her laptop into a digital mixer and using a set of electronic drum pads to play

any sound - drums, violins, even her own The impressive musıcıan will show off her

> octave vocal range on Dec. 13 at Roulette. '[When I started] I didn't have a band, so I found I could use

equipment and her four-

my voice for all these things instead," said Neuburg, who records her vocals, then loops and layers them across each other to create background music. "My best skill is my singing, and my ability to pro-

gram electronics. It's all part of her self-described "avantcabaret," a style that draws much from the 20th-century musical theater style and using

the gadgets of the 21st century. 'I like working with my [style] and I'm accustomed to it. You can play a drum sound, you can play any kind of sound of any instrument, the possibilities are infinite," she said.

Amy X Neuburg with Cory Smythe at Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. between Third Avenue and Nevins Street in Boerum Hill, (917) 267-0363], Dec. 13, 8 pm. Tickets, \$15 (\$10 for students, seniors and members). For info, visit www.roulette.org. — Alfred Na

Spin with the best Dreidel tips from the pros

What makes a Major League Dreidel champion? We asked three legendary spin-meisters for tips on how to win it all on Dec. 17 at the Knitting Factory.

Alan "Juspin Bieber" Black, 2010 MLD Champion

'Try and come up with a good balance between finesse and power. You can spin it as hard as you want, but as soon as you hit the wall, it's all over. We also realized not to over-practice. The first year we went to the tournament, Team Smoot had some thumb and shoulder injuries from our 150 hours of practice."

Seth "The Dreidel Will Rock" Diamond

The key is not psyching yourself out and not letting yourself get psyched out by your oppo-

Water Street

nent. It depends on who you're up against, but I'll tell you every person who has ever spun against Spinnie the Pooh has always come back with the story that he is a psychologically intimidating dreidel spinner.

Chris "The Gentile Giant" Colluzi

'Don't be afraid of the wall and don't be afraid to put that big spin in, because if it hits the wall at high resolutions it may bounce off and continue to spin. Either way, if you fear the wall you're more likely to have a wimpy spin, so just go for it."

— Colin Mixson



Dreidel pro: Reigning champ Alan Black, aka "Juspin Bieber," will defend his crown.

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WHERE TO G



EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY

December 10



OTiS is going up

Jazzman Craig Shoebaum, founder and frontman of funky rock outfit OTiS is determined to bring the Brooklyn soul scene to spotlight, and in celebration of the band's latest album, will be performing at South Paw in Park Slope. Help put Brooklyn soul on the map.

7 pm. Southpaw [25 Fifth Ave. between Sterling and Lincoln places in Park Slope, (718) 230-0236]. Tickets are \$10.

SUNDAY December 11

Quiltissential What better winter

memory is there than sipping a cup of hot cocoa and wrapping yourself in a warm quilt? Celebrate the beloved blanket at Prospect Park's 20th annual Quilt Show. The showcase features a quilting workshop and a raffle because no one should be quilt-less this holiday season.

Noon–5 pm. Prospect Park Audabon Center [Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 789-2822] \$3 suggestion donation. Continues through Dec. 31



MONDAY

December 12

Poster Boy

Love him, hate him, you've probably heard of him, or at least seen his work: Poster Boy, the soon-to-be-notso-anonymous artist who chops and screws subway posters and advertisements in public places, and turns them into politically charged social commentary will discuss his art live as part of the Open City Dialoque lecture series. Expect a trenchant critique of the advertising industry and a slideshow.

7:30 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. between Richardson and Frost streets in Williamsburg, (718) 302 - 3770]. Free.

THURSDAY

December 15

It's a beer mitzvah Come for the beer,

stay for the amazing story of how a man took on the craft beer world and became one of the most respected niche brands in the country. Jeremy Cowan, the mastermind behind Coney Island lager and HE'BREW craft beers, will read from his business memoir, "Craft Beer Bar Mitzvah." Come with a thirst, but leave the \$13 checks at home.

7–9 pm. powerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049].



FRIDAY

December 16



Merry onette Christmas

It's just like classic Charles Dickens except this re-imagining of "A Christmas Carol" involves marionette puppets, Jews, old world accents, Ramadan, Kwanzaa, and Czech grandmothers. Oh yeah: and there are holiday songs, sung by more than 30 puppets in five different languages.

7 pm. ClockWorks Puppet Theatre [196 Columbia St. between Sackett and DeGraw in Columbia Waterfront District, (212) 614-0001].

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, DEC. 9

FIRE SALE: Books up to 40% off. Free. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com

3049], www.powerhousearena.com.
NY CREATES HOLIDAY CRAFT FESTIVAL: Free. 11 am-7 pm. Brooklyn
Historical Society [128 Pierrepont
St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn
Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.
brooklynhistory.org.
TOY DRIVE: Annual Christmas benefit. \$15 donation. 6 pm. Sugar Hill
Restaurant and Supper Club [609
Dekalb Ave. at Nostrand Avenue
in Bedford Stuyvesant, (718) 2981072], www.wbls.com.
READING TOM RACHMAN: Author.

READING, TOM RACHMAN: Author

of "The Imperfectionists." **Free.** 7 pm. BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677], www. bookcourt.org.

MUSIC, CHURCH OF BETTY: Free. 7

pm. BAMCafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129], www.bam.org. THEATER, CILLIAN MURPHY IN
"MISTERMAN": The fourth in a series of acclaimed works by Enda Walsh. \$55 / \$70 for premium seats. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse [38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO. (718) 254-8779], www.stannsware

house.org.
THEATER, "HENRY V": The Irondale Ensemble presents Shakespeare drama. \$35. 8 pm. Irondale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233], www.irondale.org.

Narrows Community Theater presents its holiday production. \$20 (\$15 seniors and students). 8 pm. Fort Hamilton Army Base Theater [403 Lee Ave at 101st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 482-3173], www.theateronline.com. THEATER, "A CHRISTMAS CAROL":

CARNIVOROUS NIGHTS TAXI-DERMY CONTEST: \$7. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Av-enue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouse

MUSIC, TONI ENSEMBLE: \$15.8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. between Third Avenue and Nevins Street in Boerum Hill, (212) 219-8242], www.

XMAS POP SING-ALONG AND SANTA CON PRE-PARTY: \$10. 10 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

SAT, DEC. 10

PERFORMANCE

DANCE, DANCEWAVE'S HOLIDAY FIESTA: \$10. 10 am-6 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816], www.brooklynlyceum.com. MUSIC, GRETCHEN PARLATO: Free

7 pm. BAMCafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129], www.bam.org.



War and peas: Go see "Henry V" at Irondale Ensemble Project, before it closes on Dec. 10.

OSIC, WIND 75MPHONT HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER: \$20 suggested do-nation. 7 pm. Matt Torey's Bar [46 Bushwick Ave. at Ainsley Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-7646].

THEATER, CILLIAN MURPHY IN
"MISTERMAN": 8 pm. See Friday,

THEATER, "HENRY V": 8 pm. See Fri-

MUSIC, WIND SYMPHONY HOLIDAY THEATER, "A CHRISTMAS CAROL": 8

MUSIC, ISABELLE OLIVER: Free. 9 pm. Tea Lounge [837 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718)

789-2762], www.tealoungeny.com. **SALES AND MARKETS**

FIRE SALE: See Friday, Dec. 9. SCANDINAVIAN CHRISTMAS MAR-

CIVIC CALENDAR

MON, DEC. 12

Community Board 6 Executive Committee. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm. Cobble Hill Community Room [250 Baltic St. between Court and Clinton Streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 643-3027], www. brooklyncb6.org.

TUES, DEC. 13

Community Board 10
Environmental Committee. Agenda; Sanitation readjustments to basket collections in Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights and Ft. Hamilton. 7 pm. Community Board 10 office [8119 Fifth Ave. between 81st and 82nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827].

WED, DEC. 14

Community Board 2. Full board. 6 pm. Brooklyn Navy Yard [Flushing Avenue at Clermont Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 596-5410], cb2k@nyc.rr.com

6:30 pm. Borough Hall [209 Joralemon St. Between Court and Adams streets in Downtown, (718) 643-3027], www.brooklyncb6.org. Community Board 10 Police and Public Safety Committee. On the agenda: Booze license application for X Cafe. 7 pm. Community Board 10 office [8119 Fifth Ave between 81st and 82nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827].

Community Board 6. Full board.

THURS, DEC. 15 Brooklyn Bridge Rotary Club.

Weekly meeting. 12:15 pm. Brooklyn Marriott [333 Adams St. in Downtown, (917) 804-0797]. Community Board 10 Traffic and

Transportation Committee. On the agenda: Revised pedestrian plans for 86th Street; B64 update. 7 pm. Community Board 10 office [8119 Fifth Ave. between 81st and 82nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827]. To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Calendar@cnglocal.com

The Brooklyn Paper

Find lots more listings online at

BrooklynPaper.com/Events

KET: Unique items for sale and live entertainment. Free. 10 am–3 pm. Nordic Delicacies [6909 Third Ave. at 70th St. in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-5950].

OTHER

WORKSHOP, JOB TRAINING: Computer literacy and job readiness classes. Free. 10 am—1 pm. Prospect Park YMCA [357 Ninth St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-7100], www.

ymcanyc.org.
NY CREATES HOLIDAY CRAFT FES-TIVAL: 10 am-5 pm. See Friday

SANTA VISIT: Come shop and take a pix with St. Nick. Candy Canes to all. \$5 (per picture). 11 am-3 pm. Fairway Red Hook (480-500 Van Brunt St. at Reed Street in Red Hook, (718) 694-6868].

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: With Michael Showalter, Emma Straub, Michael Buckley, David Rees, and many more! Free. 11 am-9 pm. WORD [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], www.wordbrooklyn.com.

TREE LIGHTING: St. Finbar's adult and children's choir will perform seasonal favorites. **Free**. 6:30 pm. St. Finbar Msgr. Scanlon Center [Bath Ave. at Bay 20th St. in Bath Beach, (718) 236-33121.

SUN, DEC. 11

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

OPEN CALL FOR BASEBALL TRY-OUTS: For the Brooklyn Bulldogs baseball team, ages 9-13. Free. Pase Dalite Earling ages 7-15. Free. P:45-6 pm (times vary per age group). Brooklyn Collaborative School [610 Henry St. between Third and Fourth places in Car-roll Gardens, 917-803-9980], www.78pyc.org.

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "A CHRISTMAS CAROL": 2 pm. See Friday, Dec. 9. MUSIC, HOLIDAY CONCERT: Performed by the Kingsborough Musi-cal Society Chorus and The Brooklyn Community Wind Ensemble and Concert Band. Free. 2 pm. Kings-borough Community College [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Decatur Avenue in

Oriental bivo. at Decatur Avenue in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368-5596], www.kingsborough.edu. THEATER, "TIDINGS OF GOOD CHEER": The vocal group RPM performs seasonal favorites. \$20. 3 pm. St. Charles Borromeo Church [21 Sidney Pl. at Livingston Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 624-3614],

www.theater2020.com See 9 DAYS on page 12



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EDITORIAL STAFF STAFF REPORTERS Kate Briquelet (718) 260-2511 Colin Mixson (718) 260-4514 Aaron Short (718) 260-2547 **INTERNS**



How 'Sweet' it is: SweetWolf's restaurant owners Tim Judge (left) and Eric Wolf, with their signature burger.

BAR SCRAWL 🦠

But if you want food, you have to order in.

The vendors will

Brooklyn Brewery [79 N. 11th St., between Berry Street and Wythe Ave-

nue in Williamsburg, (718) 486-7422]. Open Fri, 6-11 pm; Sat, noon-8 pm;

Sun, noon-5 pm. Smorgasbrewery open Sundays, noon-5 pm. For info, visit

be different every

week, until the festival

moves back outside in March.

*\$4= one beer token \$20 = six tokens.

www.brooklynbrewery.com.

Until now! This winter, the food

Smorgasbrewery, with five vendors

festival Smorgasburg has become

setting up in the space each

Sunday from

noon to 5pm.

oysters.

The Brooklyn Brewery opens its Tasting Room every weekend.

edition beers *

Standard + limited

What's cooking? FRIDAYS ARE SPERLONGA

Don't ask us, you should know — you picked it

Bv Natalie O'Neill

The Brooklyn Paper

he gluten-free quinoa made the cut. The Sriracha-covered chicken waf-

That's the initial report from the owners of Sweetwolf's, the Park Slope restaurant that famously asked its soon-tobe-customers to draft the menu before it opened on Nov. 28.

Yes, the people have spoken: the classic American restaurant on Sixth Avenue will feature 20 rotating customer-suggested items, and the 70-plus dish ideas that neighbors suggested will eventually appear on the menu — or at least

By Bill Roundy

The only problem now

is finding a place to sit!

as a special — with the exception of a ble coffee from Forty Weight. few extra-kooky ones, said co-owner Tim Judge

There will also be regular "chicken, saltwater fish and steak options" created by Judge and co-owner Eric Wolf.

"Most of the suggestions were really solid; people are interested in eating healthier here," said Judge.

The final menu includes lobster macaroni and cheese made with quinoa pasta; Ribs with pearl onions; several seasonal veggie specials; and fries cooked in duck fat.

The rustic-looking, "modestly priced" eatery will boasts brick walls, hardwood floors and environmentally responsi-

Neighbors who participated the menu's inception were invited to the "soft opening" — and now that the restaurant is officially open for business, Judge plans to post the final menu on the soon-to-be website.

Call it a marketing gimmick, but it's all meant to create a meeting point for regulars and homey feeling — from the menu down to the communal tables.

"We hope it tastes like something you'd make at your house - only bet-

SweetWolf's (492 Sixth Ave. at 12th Street in Park Slope, no phone yet). For info, visit www.sweetwolfs.com

Big mac attack

Can Sadie's Kitchen save the day?

By Sarah Zorn for The Brooklyn Paper

an Sadie's Kitchen a Southern prepared foods shop-slash-gourmet mac and cheese parlor with a 1930s diner-meetscountry kitchen interior (oh, another one of those!) beat the curse of 243 Degraw St.?

The diminutive Cobble Hill spot has proved a graveyard of failed restaucounting Chicory, Ultimate Burgers and Dogs, and Cielo Café as casualties.

'We actually considered ourselves lucky to get this space," laughed Sadie's coowner Damien Vizuete, who along with partner Peter Sibilia—has been opening restaurants from Manhattan to Miami Beach for over 20 years. "We know very well why businesses fail, and its not always bad food or service," he added. "For example, this space has a totally electric kitchen — you can't cook with gas. Previous people had tried three-course meals here, steaks, burgers

too ambitious. Not that the fare at Sadie's is a Southern-fried afterthought.

Out of the Kraft box options on the carb-happy menu include the Charlotte's



Cheesey goodness: Sinead Leonard shows off the lobster mac and cheese at the newly opened Sadie's Kitchen on DeGraw Street in Carroll Gardens.

Mac, with crawfish, andouille sausage, habanero jack and okra bread crumbs (\$10), the Winnie's Mac, with shitake, crimini, and oyster mushrooms, brie, and truffle bread crumbs (\$10), the Mrs. Ling's Mac, with Chinese five spice duck, smoked gouda and sesame panko breadcrumbs (\$10), and of course, the basic Sadie's Mac, with cheddar, stewed tomato, and a potato chip topping (\$7).

There's also a selection of biscuit sandwiches, stuffed with pecan bacon and arugula, short rib with tomato chow chow, and fried catfish with pickled okra tarter sauce (\$8), sweet potato,

shoo fly, and bourbon pecan pies (\$4), and down-home libations like hot apple cider, chicory coffee and peach and basil iced tea (\$3).

'We're really the complete package," said Vizuete. "We make everything in house, using top of the line ingredients - organic whenever possible. We use a different béchamel for each of our mac and cheeses. We offer glutenfree pasta. Our menu tops out at \$14. We easily have one of the best interiors in the neighborhood. It's a lot

of bang for your buck!" Sadie's Kitchen [243 Degraw St. at Clinton Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 576-

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Beer pong!

Table tennis clubhouse will add drinks

By Aaron Short The Brooklyn Pape

his is one serve we

Williamsburg's feisty table tennis club, PiPs, will soon add beer, turning the dry Roebling Street hall into an overhead smash.

The recreation venue, named after the covering on a table-tennis paddle, offers balls and rubbercovered raquets for a mere suggested donation of \$5, one of the best deals in the neighborhood.

And if the final liquor license approval comes through, it'll be the ultimate mixed doubles: beer and ping-pong.

But don't get crazy. "We play straight-up table tennis on \$1,500 tables — this isn't some Kmart s—t,"



Kicker: Bill Mack (left) and Mike Weiss have the balls to open Pips, a ping pong bar on Roebling Street in Williamsburg.

"This is an Olympic sport. We respect the game. Mack and co-owner Mike

said co-owner Bill Mack.

tennis circuit five years ago, and their love of the game led

Weiss met through the neigh-

borhood's underground table

them to playing against each other in Williamsburg lofts. Weiss eventually installed a full-size table in his Williamsburg computer store, Mikey's Hook-Up (where he decimated The Brooklyn Paper's team in a classic video).

Given their love of the game, it was inevitable that Weiss and Mack would transform a former auto body shop near Metropolitan Avenue into their dream hangout, complete with three nine-foot courts. PiPs hopes to foster cama-

raderie among its guests by teaching beginners the fundamentals of the sport each weekend while also providing tournament-level table tennis once a month.

The new beer license will likely bring more amateurs to the space, which is something its regulars don't seem

"The play here is awesome— you pay the least amount of money for the most amount of fun," said PiPs regular Jasy Ho. "People don't care about winning and losingthey just enjoy the game.

PiPs [158 Roebling St. between Grand Street and Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg, (347) 674-7706]. Open 4 pm-midnight. For info, visit www. pipsout.com.

A sugar shackup

Six storefronts become mouth-watering art

By Juliet Linderman for The Brooklyn Paper

his art exhibit is food porn — literally. Starting on Tuesday, six Prospect Heights storefronts were transformed into sweet,

ART

"Shock Candy" at 845 Classon Ave. between Lincoln Place and Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights. Through Jan. 3. For visit www.whereamigal lery.org.

sticky, semi-erotic dioramas that turn an array of colorful candy-some strategically arranged across the sweet spots of anear-nude model, for example into art in a sexy installation called, "Shock Candy." 'Candy and sex go to-

gether - they're both full of life and naughtiness," said photographer Matt Schwartz, who will display six pieces, including a nude covered in gum balls.

The installation plays



Sweet and lowdown: Delectable paintings like these will be on display at "Food Lust: Rock Candy," which opened on Dec. 6 in Prospect Heights.

with ideas of sexuality and lust, as well as sensuality and sweetness, and is the first exhibit produced by Where Am I, a roving curatorial project that turns vacant commercial spaces into temporary galleries.

'This makes art accessible to those who might not know much about it," said Where Am I founder Naomi Huth. "And when there's art in the windows, it brightens

St. between Sackett and

Union streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 522-6260], brooklynfarmacy.blogspot. com/2011/10/tuesday-night-old-time-musical-

THEATER, CILLIAN MURPHY
IN "MISTERMAN": 8 pm.
See Friday, Dec. 9.

MUSIC, AMY X NEUBURG WITH CORY SMYTHE: \$15. 8 pm. Roulette [509 At-

lantic Ave. between Third

Avenue and Nevins Street in Boerum Hill, (212) 219-8242], www.roulette.org.

A FUNDRAISER — WITH COCKTAILS!: In support of autism research. \$100. 8:30 pm. Russo's on the Bay (162-45 Cross Bay Blvd

between 162nd and 163rd streets in Howard Beach),

WED, DEC. 14

will sell a variety of gifts. Free. 9 am-2:30 pm. Visita-tion Academy [8902 Ridge Blvd. at 90th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 680-9452].

FIRE SALE: See Friday, Dec. 9.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Vendors

WORKSHOP, TANGO LES-

SONS: For adults and

something so beautiful and appealing about candy." Claire Lieberman uses

a neighborhood. Plus, there's

Jell-O in her mixed-media sculptures, representative of the human body.

"The FBI uses it to test what it's like for a human body to absorb a gunshot," she explained. "So my installation is about one's own sense of self."

Continued from page 10 DANCE, HOLIDAY DANCE PARTY: \$20. 4 pm-7 pm. Brooklyn Arts Studio [210 Atlantic Ave. between Smith and Hoyt streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 625-8105], www.danceconnec-tionpyc.com

MUSIC, "RENAISSANCE MEN: A Polyphonic Christmas from the Empire City Men's Chorus: The city's only predominantly gay men's choir performs holiday music from the Renaissance. \$25, \$15 students and seniors. 5 pm. St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church [157 Montague St. in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 875-6960], www.saintan-nandtheholytrinity.org. MUSIC, PIANO MARATHON:

Featuring James Carney, Anthony Coleman, Kris Davis, and Yayoi Ikawa, among others. \$20-\$40. 5 pm-11 pm. Ibeam Music Studio (168 Seventh St. between Second and Third evenues in Gowanus), beambrooklyn.com. MUSIC, MUSIC FROM GOOD

SHEPHERD: Sunday music recital of George Frideric Handel's "Messiah" (Part 1). Free. 6 pm. Good Shepherd Church [1950 Batchelder Street at Avenue S in Marine Park, (718) 998-2800].

MUSIC, MISS TESS: Featuring Annie Lynch, Michaela Anne, and the Calamity Janes. \$10. 7:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallnv.com

MUSIC, SUZI SHELTON
BAND: Music video re-lease party. \$12. 8 pm. Bell
House [149 Seventh St. at
Third Avenue in Gowanus,
(718) 643-6510], www.the-bellhouseny.com

bellhouseny.com.

MUSIC, UNDERGROUND JAZZ IN DITMAS PARK: Head to neighborhood hip spot Sycamore for its weekly underground jazz series. \$10. 8:30 pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240-5850], www.sycamorebrooklyn.

SALES AND MARKETS FIRE SALE: See Friday, Dec. 9.

OTHER WINTER FLEA MARKET:

Over 40 vendors will sell new and used items, collectibles, jewelry and crafts. 9 am. Bay Ridge Jewish Center [405 81st St. in Bay Ridge, (718) 836-3103], www.bayridgejew-ishcenter.org. WORKSHOP, DEFENSIVE

DRIVING CLASS: Get up to four points off your driv er's record or a 10 percent reduction in premiums. Free. 9:30 am. Marine Park Jewish Center [3311 Ave. S between E. 33rd and E. 34th streets in Marine Park, (718) 891-3776].

BASEBALL TRYOUTS: Brook-lyn Bulldogs hosting open

auditions for 2012 travel teams for children 9-13 years old. Pre-registration of tryout time required. Free. 9:45 am-6 pm. Brooklyn Collaborative School (610 Henry St. between Third and Fourth places in Carroll Gardens),

places in Carroll Gardens), www.78pyc.org. NY CREATES HOLIDAY CRAFT FESTIVAL: 10 am–5 pm. See Friday, Dec. 9. SANTA VISIT: 11 am–3 pm. See Saturday, Dec. 10. HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: 11 am 9 pm. Soc Saturday

am–9 pm. See Saturday, Dec. 10. "SANTA'S HOLIDAY WORK-SHOP": \$25 (\$20 in advance). noon–4 pm. Dyker Golf Course [86th street at

Seventh Avenue in Dyker Heights, (917) 836-3788], www.nycevents.american aolf.com. HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: Free. 2 pm-4 pm. Word [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718)383-0096], www.word-

READING, RHODA COX: 2 pm-4 pm. Park Plaza Restaurant [220 Cadman Plaza West at Clark Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 596-5900].

HOLIDAY PARTY: Swing into the spirit and take a beginners' dance lesson with Laurie Shayler. Live music, refreshments, and craft sale. \$15 (\$20 at the door). 4–7 pm. Creative Arts Studio [310 Atlantic Ave. between Smith and Hout between Smith and Hoyt streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 625-8105], www.dancecon-

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THU

DEC 15

7:00 pm

DEC 22

7:00 pm

DEC 29

7:00 pm

FRI

DEC 16

7:00 pm

DEC 23

2:00 pm

7:00 pm

DEC 30

2:00 pm

7:00 pm

WED

DEC 14

7:00 pm

OPENING

NIGHT

DEC 21

2:00 pm

7:00 pm

DEC 28

2:00 pm

7:00 pm

December 14



What? The Dickens!: Go see Narrows Community Theater's rendition of "A Christmas Carol: The Musical" at Fort Hamilton Army Base theater, playing all week.

A PUB SINGALONG: Free. 7 pm–11 pm. Bar Four [444 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street in Park Slope, (718) 429-

"A MURRAY LITTLE CHRIST-MAS" SHOW: \$25. 7:30

pm. Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Wil-liamsburg, (347) 529-6696], ny.knittingfactory.com. www.petescandystore.

MON, DEC. 12 FIRE SALE: See Friday, Dec. 9. FILM, "PINGU": A "Big Movies for Little Kids" favorite. \$7. 4 pm. Cobble Hill Cinema [265 Court St. between Butler & Douglass streets in Cobble Hill, (718)

596-9113], www.cobble-hilltheatre.com . TREE LIGHTING: Christmas caroling, hot chocolate and a special visit from Saint Nick. Free. 6:30 pm. Ft. Hamilton Memorial Triangle [95th St. at Fourth Avenue in Bay Ridge (718) Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718)

MUSIC, JUJU GORDON AND **HER BAND:** Part of "Jazz" Mondays" series. 7 pm. For My Sweet [1103 Fulton St. at Claver Place in Bedford Stuyvesant, (718) 857-1427]. OPEN REHEARSALS: Brook-

238-6044].

lyn's Sweet Adelines Bar-bershop Chorus welcomes singers of all voice ranges. Free. 7:30 pm. Call for location, (718) 833-3399.

TALK, POSTER BOY!: Free. 7:30 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770],

MASS AND PROCESSION: In

Cisneros. Free. 8 pm. St. Finbar Msgr. Scanlon Cen-ter [Bath Ave. at Bay 20th St. in Bath Beach, (718) 236-33121.

219-8242], www.roulette.

www.tealoungeny.com MUSIC, MONDAY NIGHT VINYL: A bring-your-own-

Nate the K. **Free**. 10 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510] www.thebellhouseny.com

TUES, DEC. 13

honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Celebrant is Bishop

MUSIC, JAMIE BAUM SEP-TET: \$15. 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. between Third Avenue and Nevins Street in Boerum Hill. (212)

org.
MUSIC, IDAN SANTHAUS
BIG BAND: Free. 9 pm.
Tea Lounge [837 Union St.
at Seventh Avenue in Park
Slope, (718) 789-2762],

record spinning party with

FIRE SALE: See Friday, Dec. 9. MUSIC, JERKS AND JAMS: Grab your instruments and head down to the "old-time" jam. Free. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Farmacy and Soda Fountain [513 Henry

youngsters interested in ballroom dancing. No ex-perience and no partners necessary. Pre-registration for youngsters required. Free. 6 pm-9 pm. IS 96 [99 Ave. P at W. 11th Street in Bensonburst. (718) 32-Bensonhurst, (718) 232-

> **HOLIDAY PARTY:** Live music, OLIDAY PARTY: Live music, refreshments and celebrate the community. Sponsored by the Brooklyn Chapter of NAREB. Unwrapped toys or clothing (or \$20 donation). 6–10:30 pm. My Sweets [1103 Fulton St. at Claver Place in Bedford Stuyvesant, (917) 740-7367]. /ORKSHOP. JOB TRAIN-

WORKSHOP, JOB TRAIN-ING: 6:30—9:30 pm. See Saturday, Dec. 10.

READING, LUIS ALBERTO
URREA: Author of "Queen
of America." Free. 7 pm.
Word [126 Franklin St. at
Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718)383-0096], www.wordbrooklvn.com

THEATER, CILLIAN MURPHY IN "MISTERMAN": 8 pm.

MUSIC, FAVOURITE SONS, BIRD DONG, CAR ON THE MOON: \$10. 8:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www. unionhallny.com.

THURS, DEC. 15

FIRE SALE: See Friday, Dec. 9. CRAFT BEER BAR MITZVAH!: Celebrating Schmaltz Beer and He'brew. **Free**. 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37

Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049],

THEATER, "A CHRISTMAS CAROL, OY! HANUK-KAH, MERRY KWANZAA (HAPPY RAMADAN)": Presented by the Czechoslo-vak-American Marionette Theater. Suitable for children 5 and older. \$20 (\$12 children). 7 pm. Clockwork Puppet Theater [196 Co-lumbia St. between Sackett and DeGraw streets in Red Hook, (212) 868-4444],

THEATER, CILLIAN MURPHY IN "MISTERMAN": 8 pm.

www.smarttix.com.

MUSIC, DANNY SHER: Free 9 pm. Tea Lounge [837 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 789-2762], www.tealoung

FRI, DEC. 16

FIRE SALE: See Friday, Dec. 9. THEATER, "A CHRISTMAS CAROL, OY! HANUK-KAH, MERRY KWANZAA (HAPPY RAMADAN)": 7

pm. See Thursday, Dec. 15. MUSIC, DANI ELLIOTT: Free. 7 pm. BAMCafe [30 Lafay-ette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-

4129], www.bam.org.
THEATER, CILLIAN MURPHY IN "MISTERMAN": 8 pm. See Friday, Dec. 9.

ACTIVE VIEWING HOUR: Performance and discussion series featuring the work of Rebecca Patek and Liz Santoro. \$15 (\$8 low income). 8 pm. BAX – Brooklyn Arts Exchange [421 Fifth Ave. in Park Slope, (718) 832-0018], www.

bax.org.
MUSIC, CHAMBER MUSIC **CONCERT:** Presented by the Brooklyn Chamber Music Society. \$30. 8 pm. Chapel of the First Unitarian Church [48 Pierrepont St. at Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 624-5466], fuub.org.

MUSIC, DEBBIE DEAN: Free 9 pm. Tea Lounge [837 Union St. at Seventh Av nue in Park Slope, (718) enue in Park Siope, (7.10, 789-2762], www.tealoung-

SAT, DEC. 17

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "A RADIO CHRISTMAS CAROL": The Charles Dickens' classic complete with Foley Art ist sound effects. \$20.3 pm. St. Charles Borromeo Church [21 Sidney Pl. at Livingston Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 624-3614],

www.theater2020.com WWW.theater2020.com.
THEATER, "A CHRISTMAS
CAROL, OY! HANUKKAH, MERRY KWANZAA
(HAPPY RAMADAN)": 4 and 7 pm. See Thursday, Dec. 15.

MUSIC, SAM KININGER BAND: Free. 7 pm. BAM-Cafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129],

www.bam.org.
THEATER, CILLIAN MURPHY IN "MISTERMAN": 8 pm. ee Friday, Dec. 9.

MUSIC, OUT TO LUNCH

— THE MUSIC OF ERIC
DOLPHY WITH THE RUSS
JOHNSON QUINTET: \$15. 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. between Third Avenue and Nevins Street in Boerum Hill, (212) 219-8242], www.roulette.org.

THEATER, COMIC BOOK THEMED COMEDY SHOW: With readings from classics such as The Hulk and Spiderman. \$10. 9 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum [227 4th Ave. in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816], brooklynlyceum.

MUSIC, KINGS COUNTY ALL-STAR CHRISTMAS SHOW: Free. 9 pm. Tea Lounge [837 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 789-2762], www.tealoungeny.com

SALES AND MARKETS FIRE SALE: See Friday, Dec. 9. SCANDINAVIAN CHRIST-MAS MARKET: 10 am-3 pm. See Saturday, Dec. 10.

OTHER WORKSHOP, JOB TRAIN-

ING: 10 am—1 pm. See Saturday, Dec. 10. JINGLE BELL JAMBOREE:

Holiday concert and singalong. \$5-\$10. 7 pm. Congregation Beth Elohim (274 Garfield Pl. at Eighth Avenue in Park Slope), www. parkslopeciviccouncil.org. ACTIVE VIEWING HOUR: 8 pm. See Friday, Dec. 16.

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DEC 20

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7:00 pm

DEC 19

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DEC 26

7:00 pm

SAT

DEC 17

2:00 pm

7:00 pm

DEC 24

2:00 pm

DEC 31

2:00 pm

SUN

DEC 18

1:00 pm

6:00 pm

DEC 25

MERRY



Shopping made easy

Your guide to buying the perfect gift — for your kid!

obody loves getting gifts as much as children do. But when the holidays roll around, it can be tricky to pick the right presents - presents that are entertaining, enduring (at least until next Christmas or Chanukah), and, if you're lucky, educational, too. Don't awesome toys at your local independent neighborhood stress out too much — we've got a few fail-safe ideas toy shop!

for all you new Brooklyn parents. Welcome to the second installment of your holiday shopping guide. This week's topic: presents for children. The best part? You can pick up any one of these

Awesome ORIGAMI

FOR THE ASTRONAUT **IN TRAINING** Smartlab Space Exploration Kit, \$39.99 This awesome space kit includes everything your kid will need to explore the so-

guidebooks, stickers and Kidsworld [605 Brighton Beach Ave. between Brighton Sixth and Brighton Seventh streets in Brighton Beach, (718) 332-7502]. For info, visit www.internaionaltoys.com

FOR THE FUTURE MARIACHI ALL STAR

lar system, including rock-

ets, launch pads, models,

Doug and Melissa Band in a Box,



learning to play all different kinds of instruments. Kaleidoscope [8722 Third Ave. between 87th and 88th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 491-2051]. For info, visit www. toysatkaleidoscope.wordpress.com.

FOR THE CREATIVE TYPE Creativity for Kids, Awesome Ori-

gami, \$15.99 With a wide variety of colorful paper, feathers, stickers, glitter, glue and scissors (just in case), this origami is perfect for any kid with

a creative edge and a knack for arts and crafts.

Area Kids [218 Bedford Ave. between N. Fourth and N. Fifth streets in Williamsburg, (718) 218-8647]. For info, visit www.areakids.com

FOR THE EXHAUSTED AND THE VERY DESERVING MOM Gift certificate to Pilo Arts Spa gift

> card, prices vary Sometimes, the focus can fall on the kids. But remember: mom is, quite often, the most important member of the family

so make sure she's happy, too. Pilo Arts Spa [8412 Third Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay

BIOLOGIST How Does Your Garden Grow? gardening kit, \$74
Forget about kids stuff—this

gardening kit comes with a rake, trowel, three mini terra cotta pots, a variety of seeds and planting medium, and a little metal watering can. Who cares if you don't have a huge backyard? Grow these on your fire escape! Romp Toy Store [145 Fifth

Ave. between Degraw Street and St. John's Place in Park Slope, (712) 230-4373]. For

FOR THE LOVER OF MAKE-BELIEVE

Let's Play Mail set, \$52 So kids can send envelopes

and postcards to parents, pets, and friends, using velcro stamps, addresses and postage—plus, it comes with a mail sack, a mailbox and a variety of parcels.

Romp Toy Store [145 Fifth Ave. between Degraw Street and St. John's Place in Park Slope, (712) 230-4373]. For info, visit www.rompstore.

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Greenpoint Toys [738 Manhattan Äve. between Norman and Meserole avenues in Greenpoint, (718) 383-3437]. For info, visit www.greenpointtoys.com.

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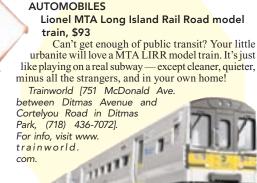
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crafted wooden house features a wind turbine, solar panel, a rain barrel for collecting rain, a green facade to help control temperature, and a shade canopy that can be pulled down preventing or allowing the wind and sunlight coming through. Plus, it practices what it preaches: it's made from recycled

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Family Disco

Defending middle school et's talk about middle school. I grew up in Arizona where the average kid just

sails through his or her local elementary, then moves to the area middle school and then on to the high school. It's all dictated by ZIP code. In New York, of course,

there are assessments of academic achievement, interviews, harsh judgments and lots of kids getting put into a box at the early age of 10. Initially, I figured that I

would go the safe route and put my kids in private school get them in early, in preschool, before testing was required, and just keep them there, ego safely intact. Yes, well. Things change.

I can't really justify the expense of private school when I had a lovely public elementary around the corner. Besides, now that we're in the thick of the middle school application process, I see things a bit differently. I actually see the process as a positive.

3:30-4:30 pm: Mils Trills

Music and Stories. Interac-

tive performance for parents with babies. \$15. 61 Local [61

Bergen St. between Court and Smith streets in Boerum Hill, (347) 703-5207], www.

6:15 pm: Movie night. Free

The Moxie Spot (see venue info above).

SAT, DEC. 10

11 am-3 pm: Visit from Santa. Candy canes to all (but \$5 per picture). Fairway Red Hook [480 Van Brunt St. at Reed Street in Red Hook,

11:30 am-4 pm: Visit from another Santa. Enjoy a pan-

cake brunch, listen to holiday

songs, do arts and crafts, walk

through a winter wonderland

and march in a parade. Free. Greenpoint Y [99 Meserole

Ave. at Lorimar Streeet in Greenpoint, (347) 559-1410],

Noon: Family friendly movie. **Free.** McKinley Park Public Library [6802 Ft. Hamilton

www.townsquareinc.com.

milstrills.com.

(718) 694-68681.

Fearless Parenting

The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

By Stephanie Thompson

Eli and I have toured a number of schools together, listened to principals and administrators speak of their programs and their areas of focus and how they try to prepare kids for their future. We have walked the halls, ducking our heads into science labs and music rooms to gauge what they actually might be like. We have held hands and stared into each other's eyes with nervous excitement at the prospect of where he will be next year. at the idea that one of these places will be his new home away from home, where he will go every day for many hours to learn and grow.

Amazingly, instead of be-

Noon and 2 pm: "Queen

Marlene's Birthday Party. Fun interactive theatrical

children). Toy Museum of New York [157 Montague St.

at Court Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 243-0820],

Puppetworks [338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391], www. puppetworks.org.

1–3 pm: Arts and crafts.

Free. Prospect Park Audu-

bon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Av

enue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400], www.prospect-

park.org/audubon.

2:30 pm: Historic crafts.

Free. Lefferts Historic Homestead [452 Flatbush

Ave. between Empire Boulevard and Eastern Parkway in

Park Slope, (718) 789-2822], www.prospectpark.org.

2:30-3:30 pm: Visit from yet

another Santa. Bring your camera and snap away. **Free**. Gumbo [493 Atlantic Ave.

between Nevins Street and

www.toymuseumny.org. 12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show, "The Reluctant Dragon." \$7 (\$8 adults).

performance. \$25 (\$17

FAMILY CALENDAR

ing stressed and strained, angry at the idea of feeding my young son to the wolves, I find myself thinking what an important experience it is for him to begin to imagine who he is and what he wants for himself at this pivotal stage of development. Maybe, just maybe, starting that process now might actually help him work toward finding the things that might really fulfill him — and feed him — in his life. I think of the state of our country right now, of all the people frustrated by the current economy and unable to figure crucial first-time careers or required transitions into new fields of employ. I cross my fingers Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 855-7808].

6 pm: Family disco night. Free. The Moxie Spot [81

Atlantic Ave., between Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710], themoxiespot.com.

SUN, DEC. 11

6 pm: Bingo night. Prizes and fun for the whole fam-ily. Free. The Moxie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave., between Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710],

11 am-3 pm: Visit from Santa. See Saturday, Dec.

10. Fairway Red Hook [480 Van Brunt St. at Reed

Street in Red Hook, (718)

11:30 am: Holiday party. Suzi Shelton's band. \$10

(\$12 at the door). Bell House [149 Seventh St. at

Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.

12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show, "The Reluctant Dragon." See Saturday, Dec. 10.

1–3 pm: Arts and crafts. See Saturday, Dec. 10.

To list your event, email

calendar@cnglocal.com

thebellhouseny.com.

themoxiespot.com.

694-6868].

that this figuring process, and the one in a few years from now for high school, might go some way toward helping him make sense of where he fits into the world well before many kids have to think of it for the first time to figure college.

We limited the options somewhat, ruling out places that seemed like they might be pressure cookers, simply too far from home, or a mismatch with our family's winning-isn't-everything philosophy. I am impressed by the schools that place attendance and enthusiasm over grades and test-based achievements (not that Eli hasn't done well, you understand). I don't want him to get stuck in the trap of success-by-numbers that seems all too easy to get sucked into here and increasingly everywhere.

ily figured his first-ranked school, and I, blissfully, am in agreement. It is a place where experiential learning is stressed over test scores, seemingly, and where he felt the most himself.

This process has offered us the chance to discuss Eli's strong suits, what he might do well or like to do. I am confident that what I tell him is true, that we are lucky in our district to have an embarrassment of riches even as these trying economic times tear away at school budgets. I feel sure that he will be happy in his new home if only because he makes it so and has thought about how he might do that. Unlike when I first imagined it, applying to middle school is not so scary. It is a great opportunity for selfdiscovery.

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'Greening' your home this holiday season

By Camille Sperrazza

It's that time of year when we all go "green" — decorating the house Christmas trees, wreaths, and evergreens.

There's nothing like entering a home, smelling the fresh-cut scent of a real tree, and seeing its beautiful, strong branches decorated with colorful ornaments. It's what the holiday season is all about.

Since 1990, Greenpoint Trees LLC has been allowing Brooklynites to have this type of seasonal experience. The company can be found selling its trees, wreaths, and holiday items at street corners in Greenpoint, Williamsburg, on Willoughby Street, and even in Middle Village, Queens.

These trees don't grow in Brooklyn; instead they come from the farms of Canada and North Carolina. To the average Brooklynite, all Christmas trees may look the same, but Stephen Leddick, owner of Greenpoint Trees, tells us there are differences among them. For example, one type of Christ-

mas tree is the balsam fir. It is dark green in color, and can soar 40 to 60 degrees in height. Another is the Fraser fir. named after John Fraser. a botanist, he says. This type of tree is pyramid-shaped, and can reach a height of 80 feet. Its branches are turned slightly, giving the tree "a compact appearance," he says.

Yet another type is the Douglas fir, adorned with needles that are dark green or shades of blue-green, he says. Legend tells us the fir tree was probably the very first Christmas tree, and that it made its appearance in Eastern Europe during the 12th century.

The good news is that you don't need to know any of this when you pick out a tree at Greenpoint Trees. Although it may help to know which end of the tree is up, you don't even



have to know that much. After all, Christmas trees were hung upside down from ceilings during the 12th century, and it's not unheard of to do the same today. With all these options, what type of

tree does Leddick recommend Brooklynites buy? "The North Carolina Fraser fir is

the most popular Christmas tree in our stock," he says. They range in size from five to 15 feet. But if you want your house to have that Christmas tree scent, consider

the Canada balsam fir. "It is known to be the most fragrant Christmas tree in the world." he says. It's also available in sizes

that range from five to 15 feet. A home isn't complete with-

Evergreen wreaths from Greenpoint Trees can make the perfect gift this season.



Greenpoint Trees Owner Stephen Leddick shows off the popular at his stand at DeKalb Market.

out a beautiful wreath. Buy one for yourself, but also consider giving them as gifts, as it's often not something people think of buying for themselves. A traditional 22 inch balsam fir wreath, complete with a holiday bow and pine cones, is "all fresh, handmade," says Leddick. It's dark green in color, with a wonderful scent sure to put the recipient in a holiday frame of mind.

Greenpoint Trees' premium wreath is a plush 24 inch Fraser fir, decorated with a red velvet bow and pine cones. Wreaths can be shipped directly to friends, family, co-work-ers, and business associ-

ates, making it very convenient for you. No worries about size or style. This gift truly does fit all. Greenpoint Trees LLC is a wholesaler distributor, too, and can work di-

rectly with companies and businesses, to meet their holiday needs. Each holiday season, there is debate about what's best for the envi-

ronment. Should we buy an artificial tree, or a natural one? "This can often be confusing to consumers who want to make ecofriendly choices," Leddick acknowl-

edges. "Real Christmas trees are the

best environmental choice." They are 100 percent biodegradable, and can be recycled, he says, while fake trees end up in landfills, and "are a burden to the environ-

ment. indefinitely. Going "green," this season means

more than decorating, after all.

Greenpoint Trees LLC [Intersection of Manhattan Avenue and Calver Street in Greenpoint, (800) 399-7796]. Open 24 hours. (Williamsburg Christmas Market,

131 Berry St. at N. Seventh Street in Williamsburg, same phone). Open daily, 11 am – 10 pm. (Dekalb Market, 138 Willoughby

St. at Flatbush Avenue in Down town, same phone). Open daily, 10 am - 10 pm. (Intersection of 69th Road and

Cooper Avenue in Middle Village, Queens, same phone). Open 24 hours. For more information, visit www.GreenpointTrees.com.

Photos by Elizabeth Graham

Is Hodges good enough?

By Daniel Bush

The Brooklyn Pape Is Gil Hodges Hall-wor-

thy, or isn't he? Last week's rejection of the legendary Dodger player and Mets manager by the National Baseball Hall of Fame renews a decades-long argument that Hodges deserves

the game's top honor. On the plus side: Hodges was an eight-time All Star, knocked in more runs during the 1950s than any other National Leaguer, won two World Series championships as a player, and, of course, managed the Amazin' Mets to their still-unbelievable 1969 title.

On the negative side: Hodges wasn't the premier first basemen of his generation, or even the most talented member of the Boys of Summer. His career statistics - a .273 lifetime batting average, 370 home runs, and 1,274 runs batted in — are comparable to good-but-not-great players such as Yankees first basemen Tino Martinez who batted .271 over his career with

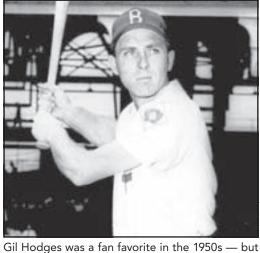
339 home runs and 1,271 RBIs (and when was the last time you heard a Yankee fan argue credibly that Tino Martinez should be enshrined?).

Citing Hodges's less-thanlegendary stats, baseball historian Thomas Gilbert said the legendary Bum is just a 'notch below" the game's alltime greats.

"Hodges was a great hitter, but he just isn't worthy of the Hall of Fame," said Gilbert, who's penned 13 books on the national pastime

Gilbert said most Hall of Famers — like, say, New York Giants center fielder Willie Mays - were the best at their position during their prime, as well as the most dominant hitters on their team and perennial candidates for the Most Valuable Player award.

But in his peak years, Hodges was outshined at first base by St. Louis Cardinals slugger Stan Musial; considered the fourth-best hitter on the Dodgers, after Duke Snider, Roy Campanella and Jackie Robinson; and



if that was the only threshold, Ed Kranepool would be in Cooperstown!

never came closing to winning an MVP trophy.

Neverthless pro-Hodges experts were quick to defend the former Marine, who was beloved by teammates and fans for his quiet demeanor, work ethic and leadership

tently fallen short of the necessarv votes needed for enshrinement in Cooperstown since he first became eligible in 1969.

skills, but who has consis-

"It's not fair for him to be penalized because he wasn't

the best player on his team that argument is ridiculous," said Dan Schlossberg, an authority at the Society for American Baseball Research. "Hodges's accomplishments both as a hitter and fielder merit his being in the Hall of Fame."

And you know which side the borough's ultimate Dodger fan, Borough President Markowitz, is on.

"I'm flabbergasted [that] the Hall of Fame has chosen to overlook the spectacular career and contributions of Gil Hodges," the Beep said in a statement. "Hodges is baseball royalty in Brooklyn, and ... deserves to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame for contributing so much to the game of baseball."

Worst of all, vanquished Dodger fans used to always "Wait 'til next year" after their team fell to the Yankees in the World Series. In this case, Hodges must wait three years for his name to return to the "Golden Era Committee" ballot.

Wait 'til 2014!

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HODGES.

Continued from page 1 short of Hall of Fame stan-

dards, but the Indiana native was one of the dominent players of his era He broke in with the Boys

of Summer in 1947 — the same year that Jackie Robinson broke the game's noxious color barrier. Hodges emerged as a major force, knocking in 100 RBIs every season between 1949 and 1955. By the end of that decade, Hodges had knocked in more runs than any other National Leaguer.

The eight-time All Star helped lead Brooklyn to six pennants and one World Series title, and won another championship in Los Angeles before retiring in 1963 with more home runs, at the time, than any right handed hitter in league history.

ment was off the field: He led the fledgling Mets to their "miracle" World Series title in 1969, an accomplishment that still ranks up there with the moon landing, the invention of the polio vaccine and the splitting of the atom as the greatest fruits of human endeavor.

But it hasn't been enough

But his greatest achieve-

to earn Hodges a permanent place in baseball's Pantheon in upstate New York. His widow, Joan Hodges, who still lives on a stretch of Bedford Avenue called "Gil Hodges Way," said that she and longtime fans will never give up hope that the burghers of baseball will some

"I will never stop [hop-ing], not as long as I live," she told this paper in 2008,

the last time her husband was denied entry into the Hall. "If there was anyone who represented the national pasttime in every way possible, was Gil.'

He did more than represent a kid's game. He was also a man in every sense of the word.

Born in Indiana, Hodges was a former Marine who earned a commendation for courage under fire and a Bronze Star after fighting in Tinian and Okinawa during World War II. He died of a heart attack in 1972, two days shy of his 48th birthday.

Hodges became eligible for the Hall of Fame five years after he retired.

Under the museum's comlex new rules - which replaced the simpler Veterans Committee system — the elite panel votes on a ballot of eligible players, managers, umpires and executives from the "Golden Age"

of baseball, 1947-1972, every three years.

Santo's stats were no more impressive than those compiled by Hodges: a .277 lifetime batting average with 342 home runs and 1,331 RBIs over a 15-year career from 1960-1974 with the Cubs and Chicago White Sox.

Lasorda said Hodges could still make the grade in 2014, the next time the Hall of Fame will consider players of his generation.

"He was a great, great player," Lasorda said at the news conference announcing the results. "We just hope that next [time we] can get

The loss leaves Hodges with only a street, a bridge and a school named after

And it leaves Borough President Markowitz, in a word, "flabbergasted."

"Gil Hodges deserves to be enshrined," he said.

cafes called shisha bars or

and safety," the agency de-Until then, the imposter brands were sold in head shops and online as in-

linked to the fake pot. "It was

necessary to prevent an imminent threat to public health

cense, side-stepping U.S. regulation because they was sold in packages stating that they were not for human consumption. Fake "highs" are a trend

compounded by the hookah lounge industry, which invites patrons to share flavored tobacco called "shisha" from a communal pipe in

But, smoking a marijuana

"You're expecting to be mellow," Dr. Anthony Scalzo, the medical director of the Missouri Poison Control Center who first reported a spike in K2 cases last year,

"Unfortunately, you're not getting that. No one really sort of field tested these chemicals. We don't even know where exactly this stuff is made.'

Continued from page 1 Federal investigators are

WEED...

brain as weed

probing companies and shops that sell the pseudo-drugs, with a blunt warning to manufacturers that they could be busted. "There is a concern about

copycat [synthetics]," said Drug Enforcement Agency agent David Levey. "We can prosecute under the Analog

We bought two varieties of the fake pot last week at Sakman Candy on Fourth Avenue between 68th and 69th streets, where a clerk turned us on to "Wicked XXX." The \$18 blend cost twice as much as other varieties, he said, but delivered a more potent punch, likely confirming the fears of city officials that the modified blends are just as dangerous.

An 18-year-old doper from Bay Ridge, who refused to give his name, had such a severe reaction to "Wicked" that he rushed to call an am-

bulance. "I felt way, way too high, my entire body and insides hurt, and I couldn't breathe," he said. "I started getting too hot and took off my shirt and my tank top even though it was freezing out."
Wicked XXX's manu-

facturer, Herbal Magics, claims that its products are not meant to be ingested, but copped the Fifth when asked to spill the seeds about its in-

"We don't give out that information," commented a flack, directing us to the company's website, which offered a sly nod to weed smokers with assurances of "eight different aromas ... will convince even the most skeptical of bud-burning veterans," and "the best herbal potpourri for an uncompromising laidback experience.

But real potheads are laying off the fake stuff.

The high is eight times more than weed," said an 18-year-old Borough Park toker, who swore off "spice" after trying it twice and realizing its potency. "It's marketed as potpourri, but it's only found in cigar shops and they don't say that you're supposed to smoke it, but they're implying that you should."

The hop-head said that his vision blurred, his memory lapsed and "everything was glistening," while his girl-friend suffered a panic attack after trying it.

"I was pretty concerned as to what was inside of it," he said. "When I looked it up, there was nothing on it except a couple of stories from people saying that they used it and ended up in the hospital."

The Drug Enforcement Administration banned K2. synthetic marijuana and five other chemicals in Nov. 2010 amid reports of seizures, hallucinations and dependency

substitute just isn't worth the risky toke, says an emergency medicine expert.

told ABC News.

ARTISTS...

Continued from page 1 hosted art parties at a twostory brick Clinton Hill for-

tress on the edge of the Hasidic quarter since 2005. But last year, complaints from neighbors brough city inspectors who subsequently shut down the party house and threw out its residents amid fire code violations.

The tenants were allowed back, but the party was over for all intents and purposes. Rubinstein and Thomas ended up holding many of their events at warehouses elsewhere in the borough.

But the neighborly strife began again this summer, after several Orthodox neighbors in new buildings abutting Rubulad complained about scantily costumed revelers

So far, Thomas and Rubinstein have raised \$18,813 from 250 people, a little over half their goal of \$35,000, which they need to attain

by Friday. Donors who pledge \$20 through Kickstarter can receive tickets to the official 2011 Santacon afterparty, when a mob of hundreds of costumed Santas will converge at Rubulad on Saturdav.

That ought to make the neighbors happy.
Santacon Afterparty at

Rubulad (338 Flushing Ave. between Classon Avenue and Taaffee Place in Clinton Hill, no phone), Dec. 10, 10 pm. Tickets, \$20 via www. kickstarter.com/projects/ rubulad/make-rubulads-

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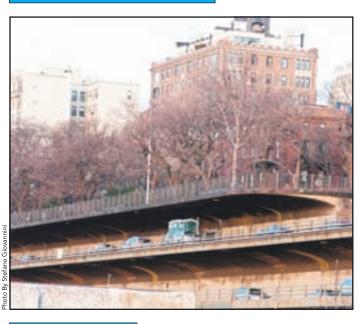
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Mill Basin Wines & Liquor

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Cuomo blows it

Last week's decision by the Cuomo administration to halt the reconstruction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway's crumbling triple-cantilever section under Brooklyn Heights is not merely a decision that will result in a tragic human toll, but is a classic example of the failures of government officials to protect and serve the public over the long term.

In issuing the order to terminate the early phase of the multi-year project, state officials cited other, morepressing, priorities for limited taxpayer dollars.

We understand the importance of making tough calls; that's why this page tends to endorse public officials who are capable of making them.

But there is a difference between making tough calls and pretending that craven decisions are tough calls. And that is what state officials have done in canceling preliminary work on the 20-year-long project.

The portion that was eliminated represented just \$1.2 million in state funds. the dust that falls off the chump change in the state's \$130-billion budget. But by pulling the plug, the state ensures that the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway repairs cannot be done in time for the roadway's likely collapse.

extent of the state's incompetence:

• The roadway is operating more than 20 years beyond its expected life and

A simple review of the facts reveals the

has serious safety deficiencies already.
• It carries 160,000 cars

and trucks per day - far more than it was carrying

when it opened in 1949. • Such factors make it difficult to find a comprehensive repair strategy. This kind of thing takes time.

· Transportation officials admit that the roadway's structural integrity will reach a critical point within 10 years.

 Thanks to the cancellation of the preliminary work, a new roadway will no longer be in place before that 10year deadline. Indeed, even before the work was cancelled last week, state officials were concerned that repairs would not be completed before the roadway would crumble.

If you consider all those facts, the inescapable conclusion is that an investment must be made — now! — to ensure that repairs are com-

But politicians (and, let's be fair, the voters who don't hold them accountable) have always had a prob-

lem with spending today on projects that someone else will get to cut the ribbon on. But

the same pols have no problem taking credit when they do the right thing. A month ago, for example, Gov. Cuomo cut the ribbon on a new bridge between two tiny towns in upstate and

neighboring Vermont. 'Today's [ceremony] demonstrates," the governor said in his loftiest oratory, "that, once again, New York State government can work effectively and efficiently for the people.'

If it was only true, Andrew. If it was

LETTERS

Paper is wrong about Millman school plan

Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Cobble Hill) is helping our community by oppossion of a charter

school in District

15 ("Union fights

charter plan," Nov.

I am a taxpayer, an education researcher and a community activist, and one of a large number of area residents hoping to keep the Success Academy from undercutting our children's edu-

cation in public schools. Charter schools have been less effective than public schools across the country. New York has sanctioned charter schools in poverty-stricken areas with low student achievement, despite this finding. Why place a charter

Send a letter

By e-mail:

newsroom@cnglocal.com

By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, One Metrotech Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201. All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

part of District 15. one of the highest achieving school districts in the city? Why are we the only city allowing for-profit charter schools to operate in city build-

ings rent free? The Brooklyn School

for Global Studies has been designated a "transformation" school, and the city has received federal funds with the promise to focus on strengthening and supporting the school. Why risk that funding and undermine the learning of its students? Why give resources to the Success Academy, which has been found to "push out" students with high needs, and has had a high rate of teacher and student attrition?

Parents and other taxpayers must thank the United Federation of Teachers and Millman for their efforts to protect our schools.

Rosalie Friend. Park Slope

Permit problem

I don't normally agree with Republicans on most things, but I completely agree with Rep. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) that permit parking is yet another tax on car owners ("The Golden rule"

It will discourage shoppers and restaurant patrons, as well as friends and family from other Brooklyn neighborhoods who are unable to use public transit due to age and disabilities, and impair the logistics of transporting packages and equipment to

The Barclays Center arena is poorly located, and I sympathize greatly with the residents who had

this project forced upon them. Instead of charging a fee completely unfair! - the creation of free parking for residents would

> Jane Landis, Park Slope

Occupy Bklyn

To the editor,

I saw the Occupy Wall Street protesters walking to Times Square with their drums and slogans, chanting, "What is democracy? This is democracy," ("Occupy Brooklyn takes Grand Army Plaza," Oct. 21).

They looked like the protestors I had walked with during the 1960s as a young adult living in San Francisco. I was one of the protesters who surrounded the Oakland induction center during an anti-Vietnam protest. I too thought, at the time, that it was a wonderful show of freedom and an empowering experience.

We were told to put Vaseline under our eyes in case tear gas was

used. We marched, energized by the threat of violence that might happen when we confronted the "blue meanies." otherwise known as the Alameda County sheriff's deputies. We confronted the deputies, eye-ball to eye-ball, and believed that nothing could happen to us. Nothing did, and by 10 am, we declared that we had "won the war," left downtown Oakland and

went back home. My immediate reaction to the Wall Street protestors was wondering what will happen when they realize that government or big banks can't furnish their needs.

Most people can probably sympathize with the protesters, and agree about the excesses of big banks and the concentration of wealth by the few, but I really don't care that bank regulations were lifted so that U.S. banks can compete with big global banks I iust want my neighborhood bank back, instead of the Spanish bank that took it over!

No one knows where the Wall Street protests are taking us. It is interesting and worrisome, but big government solutions are not

> Barbara Brookhart, **Carroll Gardens**

Art attack

To the editor.

The Brooklyn Museum is exhibiting a video of insects crawling over the bloody body of Jesus idays ("Saved! 'Offensive crucifix will stay in Museum show," Nov. 18).

This is art? In someone's sick mind it is, and it's also protected by the First Amendment.

This is just another instance of the Christian-bashing that happens to be very popular these days, especially around Christmas.

Rosie Boxer, Rockaway Point, N.Y.

Slice of life

To the editor,

I have to hand it to Dom Di Fara of Di Fara's Pizza ("Free Dom DeMarco! Reopen Di Fara!" online, Nov. 22).

He gets closed up by the health department every so often, gets a week's vacation, cleans the place up, re-opens, gets thousands of dollars worth of free advertising, then has lines out of his door with people paying five bucks for a slice of pizza for the rest of the year.

This guy is not only a great pizza maker, he's a marketing

Di Fara's fools all the people all the time — over and over

Michael Mangiari, Dyker Heights

To the editor,

When did it become OK to make fun of the mentally ill?

I am appalled by your story about the poor woman who had what seems like a psychotic breakdown in Bay Ridge ("Naked rampage," Nov. 18).

Why did you feel it appropriate to post photos? I am embarrassed for you, for your paper, and for the people who feel this is newsworthy and amusing.

I only wish someone was able to help this poor woman before the media and the cellphone camera jackals emerged. Have you no decency? This is

someone's child, possibly someone's mother. She needed help and Bay Ridge residents stood by with cameras, catching every minute of the poor lady's breakdown. Classy move, Brooklyn. I only

hope that no one reading this has to experience mental illness in

It is truly terrifying and not something to joke about.

Marybeth Smith-Affe, Bay Ridge

Cold diggers

To the editor,

Your article, "Ice Creamed!" (Nov. 25) was a complete joke. Sara Abraham of Williams-

burgh "claims" to have bitten into a frozen dime while eating Haagen-Dazs ice cream. You explain how she and her husband have already hired a lawyer, and that Sara is quoted as saying, "I don't want to eat ice cream anymore." Is she kidding me? You mean this poor woman is going to be so traumatized and emotionally scarred for the rest of her life from finding a dime in

her ice cream? I've had it with these cases. It sickens me when people spill coffee on themselves and sue Starbucks and other companies for millions of dollars, claiming their product was too hot. Why does the taxpayer have to foot the bill for these gold diggers? When are these do-nothing politicians going to pass a law that states if a plaintiffloses a "frivolous" court case, he or she must be responsible for all court fees?

Haagen-Dazs shouldn't give this lady a dime!

Rick Lundberg



TWO WAYS TO LOVE

The Brooklym Pap

IN PRINT

Pick up The Brooklyn Paper every Friday across Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Downtown, Brownstone Brooklyn and Bay Ridge. Each print edition delivers news, arts, and entertainment, plus our original columnists, cartoonists and the world's best Cyclones



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John Buckler of Michigan won the freestyle competition for his dizzying facial hair pattern.

A hairy situation!

Brooklynite — a woman! — wins at beard contest

By Dan MacLeod

was a woman!

The only Brooklynite to take home first place in Saturday's Beard and Mustache competition in Greenpoint

About 50 beards competed in the Gotham City Beard Alliance's second Beard and Mustache Competiton at Club Europa in Greenpoint, with competitors battling in categories such as full natural beard; partial beard; 99-percent beard (formally the "re-



Stephanie Coffee won the fake beard category.

cession beard"): fake beard (for women and the follically

challenged): natural moustache: styled moustache: and freestyle, where anything goes. Top honors in the full beard category went to Allen Demling, a professional

beard-grower from Austin, Texas, who avenged his second-place finish last year.

"It was packed and there were a lot of serious competitors," he said. "It was a good competition.'

Other winners came from Connecticut, Michigan, Seattle and upstate — but in true Brooklyn fashion, one woman made do with less to take top honors in the fake beard category.

Stephanie Coffee of Greenwood Heights fashioned a fake beard using pantyhose and her own auburn tresses to win the coveted award.

"It was a blast. I was just there for fun, but it ended up being a great night," she



Partial beard winner Jim Daley, left, of Philadelphia, takes on second place finisher Kevin Demarest of Slate Hill, New York.

Nutritional mandate?

CB1 requires full kitchen in bars with open space

By Aaron Short The Brooklyn Paper

Start crying in your beer North Brooklyn's community board approved new liquor license rules on Tuesday night that will make it harder to open rooftop and backyard bars in the neighborhood.

Community Board 1 will now require new applicants to have a full kitchen on the premises if they intend to operate a bar with a rooftop or backyard space.

Existing bars with a backyard but no kitchen - including past decibel offenders Trophy Bar, Union Pool, and The Woods—are exempt from the policy, unless the

owner wants to expand.
"The idea behind the rule is that bars tend to be louder, have more drinking, and more boisterous behavior while people sit and eat food with their drinks at a restaurant," said Community Board 1 member Ward Dennis.

The board's new policy also requires new applicants to also submit signatures from neighbors in support of the license and present the building's certificate of occupancy to ensure that the site allows an 'eating and drinking establishment," or is brought up

The new proposal is far less stringent than the blanket moratorium on new bars. which Chairman Chris

Olechowski introduced in

April, but the board tabled for review a month later.

Board members nixed a moratorium on new licenses as well as a controversial ban on bars and restaurants in residentially zoned districts at last week's public safety committee meeting.

The community board's new liquor licenses policy only advisory — the State Liquor Authority has the ultimate say over whether new booze-serving businesses can open in the city's neighbor-

An agency spokesman said there is "nothing radical" in the board's nutritional mandate (if you will) since it codifies many standards the state requires to approve a liquor application.

The liquor board, for example, already requires food, though not a full kitchen, to be served at places with booze licenses

We need a [certificate of occupancy], and having community support is important in our decision making process regarding a new license," add Liquor Authority spokesman William Crowley.

But some board members sav new policy isn't fair.

'It's possible to sit in a back yard and drink beers and be a good neighbor," said Community Board 1 member Ryan Kuonen, who abstained from the board's vote this week.

And some bars without backyards, including Williamsburg's Alma Lounge



they want liquor licenses under new Community Board 1 rules

and Greenpoint's The Production Lounge, are among the neighborhood's most-pervasive nuisances, receiving police visits from playing music at ear-splitting levels. Police even closed down

yardless CoCo66 this summer for serving alcohol without a license, after a neighbor complained about loud volumes and crowds outside the Greenpoint Avenue watering hole

Chamber unmade Slope biz group loses its president in mystery

By Natalie O'Neill

The head of Park Slope's main merchants group has abruptly resigned and abandoned his job at a popular gym — leaving behind a fog of speculation and a temporary leadership crisis amongst neighborhood businessfolk.

Jason Daniels — the president of Park Slope Chamber of Commerce - quit last week after less than a year leading the group.

The fitness instructor-turned-businessman did not return several calls and e-mails seeking comment — but the Chamber's new president, realestate broker Tammy Shaw, said he resigned due to time restraints.

He took on more than he could handle," she said. "He left for the benefit of the Chamber.'

But that hasn't stopped members of the tight-knit organization from speculating that the former president actually resigned under duress or amid pressure to leave.

Daniels's Chamber responsibilities included leading monthly meetings, putting on festivals and events and, more recently, organizing a Seventh Avenue Business Improvement District, which would levy a new tax to help clean up Park Slope's main shopping strip.

As president, Daniels maintained a highly private persona: He rarely responded to calls from the press, has a private number and almost zero presence online.

In September, however, he organized a self-defense class at his gym S-Clubs Fitness on Union Street after a string of attempted rapes in the neighborhood.

Former Chamber president Mitch Szpicek said he had "no idea" why Daniels had quit — but a receptionist at his gym offered a clue, explaining he had ditched his job around the same time.

"Jason?" she said. "He is no longer with us."

Trucker arrested for hitting senior

By Aaron Short The Brooklyn Paper

Police say they have nabbed the drunk truck driver who mowed down a 90-year-old man crossing Metropolitan Avenue on Thursday morning and left him for dead.

Bushwick resident Hernan Diaz, 47, was driving his white Chevrolet truck westbound on Metropolitan Street at 11:30 am, when he struck the elderly pedestrian at the intersection of Orient Avenue, cops said.

Diaz didn't stop to check on the victim, police said, and kept on trucking — unit a witness followed the suspect in his own car, called 911, and flagged him down.

Police pulled Diaz over at Lorimer Street and Meeker Avenue a few minutes later and took him into custody, where his blood-alcohol level was twice the legal limit, police said.

icular assault. leaving the



Hernan Diaz was arrested on Thursday for running over a 90-year-old man on Metropolitan Avenue.

scene of an accident without reporting, and drinking under the influence of alcohol, tence of four years in prison if convicted. The victim remains in

critical condition at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan, recovering from se-

Metropolitan Avenue is a Diaz was charged with ve-truck route that can be dangerous for pedestrian

Last month, cyclist Mathieu Lefevre was rear-ended and killed by a truck in a hitand-run on nearby Morgan Avenue.

And in September, cyclist Erica Abbot was run over and killed by a car when she fell off her bike on Bushwick Avenue, a block from Metropolitan Avenue.

Police found no criminal-

ity in either case. Neighborhood activists have been urging the city to adopt several safety measures to slow down traffic in East Williamsburg including adding more traffic lights, stop signs and speed bumps.

'It's an industrial area it's hard for trucks to see pedestrians and trucks can't stop on a dime as easily as a car can because of the load," said Williamsburg resident Eric Bruzaitis. "And for senior citizens who live in that area, it's intimidating to cross the street if they see

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Check, mate Reporter collects prize

By Moses Jefferson The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Paper veteran Aaron Short received his award from the watchdog group New York Civic last Friday, a tribute to his dogged pursuit of shenanigans inside Assemblyman Vito Lopez's office and its charity spin-off.

New York Civic founder

Henry Stern personally presented Short with his \$1,000 check for second place in the group's award competiton. Laura Nahmias, a reporter for City Hall News, got the top honor.



Aaron Short

"In this age of media consolidation, it is more important than ever that we vigorously support investigative journalism," said Stern



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Continued from page 1 streetscape. The ubiquity of free pornography on the Internet also helped.

At Cinema Kings, tickets are \$12 and theater-hopping is permitted: patrons are free to roam from one screen to the next or to one of the dozens of private viewing booths, where the theater shows even more pornography on small, 1980s television sets. There is no popcorn nor concessions, but there is free coffee

There is even a woman's bathroom - though it is unclear if it has, or ever will be, used by a woman. The theater is typically filled entirely by men, most of whom appeared to be past retirement age.

The place is also a gay cruising spot, according to many websites — though not necessarily a top-notch

"The theater itself is gorgeous," wrote a commentator on the cruising site, Listings-ForSex. "Too bad the patrons ferings available at the histhodox Jewish area around its presence in the neighbor-

[about the theater]," said Mike Cohen, the manager Despite the variety of oftoric theater, residents and workers of the mostly Orthe theater said they resented days a week.

of the Rose Bakery down the street. "You don't know the disgusting things they do in there." Whatever they're doing, they are doing it early: the joint opens at 10 am, seven

"For more than 35 years.

nobody can do anything

CHAINS.

Continued from page 1 Adams St., the decrepit former city office next to the Marriott Hotel and Morton's The Steakhouse annex.

"With these great new tenants ... we are seeing further evolution of Downtown Brooklyn as an in-demand retail destination," said Joshua Muss, whose firm Muss Development owns the building near Willoughby Street.

The fantastical and touristy Sugar and Plumm features chocolates, crepes and lunchtime fare, but its first Brooklyn shop will also boast a surprise international attraction, according to president and CEO Lamia Ja-

One surprise will be the prices for Downtown workers: At lunchtime, sandwiches range from \$8 for a grilled cheese to \$13 for a beef tip Dagwood. For breakfast, two eggs any style cost \$6.

American BBQ and Beer Company will be the first location of a new restaurant brand by Mark Advent, the developer behind the New

York New York hotel in Vegas, the world-famous, Gotham-themed monument to kitsch.

Advent said that he will set up the barbecue joint's headquarters in Brooklyn and bring in the prestigious Michelin star-winning chef Christopher Lee, whose resume includes Gaphattan favorites Oceana and Au-

 $Borough\,boosters\,hope\,the$ two new eateries will form a bold "restaurant row" on Adams Street and further enhance a burgeoning retail corridor on the Fulton Mall, which is gearing up to welcome H&M and Express sometime next year. Panera Bread, a national

"artisan" bakery and café, will be the first tenant to revitalize the Adams Street eyesore when it opens in February, following Shake Shake's expected opening this month at the corner of Fulton and Adams streets.

Single-patty hamburgers at the fast-food joint cost \$4.50.

CORRECTIONS

· A photo in last week's print edition suggested a wrong location for the City Tech cafe that was shut by the Health Department. The cafe inside the City Tech bookshop, which is nearby, was not shut down. The Brooklyn Paper regrets the inference — and will see you for a cup of Joe on Jay Street!

•Our recent article about Occupy Brooklyn ("Occupy Wall Street finally gets a Brooklyn accent," Nov. 14) misstated the amount of money that Joe Sitt paid for the Albee Square Mall. It was \$24 million. He later sold the mall for \$125 million.



25 Women will have their important work profiled in the newspaper, and will be feted at a cocktail party in their honor. It can be anyone who has had an impact on the borough, in any field.

Why are you nominating them? (In 5 lines or less)



How can we reach you or your nominee for more information?

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CARLY WALLIS, PA

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by Court, Kings n 11/14/2011, Civil bearing Index Number NC-001121-11/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston

Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Bilal (Last) Khoja. My present name is (First) Zhalol (Middle) Khoja Abdul (Last) Rauf AKA Zhalol dul (Last) Hauf AKA Zhaloi Khoja. My present address is 2247 East 21st Street, Brooklyn, NY 11229. My place of birth is Uzbeki-stan. My date of birth is

stan. My date of November 03, 1993.

NOTICE IS HEREE that an Order ent NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 12/05/2011, bearing Index Number NC-001156-11/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Sora (Middle) Yitti (Last) Moskovits. My

present name is (Last) Her-man-Moskovits AKA Fe-male Herman-Moskovits (infant). My present address is 811 Ave L, Brook-lyn, NY 11230. My place of birth is New York, N.Y. My date of birth is October 10,

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of household good and Clyde Chinitz unit # N1N05 household good

nisc items
Chinitz unit 320018 of household good eter Best unit # BN221 of

ousehold good and misc nce Jamie unit # B20050 household good and

Bondaroff unit 325076 of household good and misc items
Ameen Elizabeth unit #
324037 of household good and misc items

Helio Bodini unit # B2736 of household good and nisc items Dease Lorenzo unit # B24078 of household good

and misc items Bullock Russell unit B25011 of household good

Scarlet Quick B24060 of household good Thomas unit Quentina B24016 of household good

and misc items
Shaniqua Waldo unit #
B20109 of household good and misc items Gloria Oliver unit # B25050 of household good and misc items er Dean unit # household good

and misc items Carroll D. Thompkins unit # B2681 of household good and misc items Josh D. Goldberg unit # B24053 of household good

and misc items

Angela

B25005 of household good and misc items Seth J. Gisberg unit # B27L42 of household good and misc items
Michael Marciante unit

Brown

B2778 of household good and misc items
Edwards Oh unit # B25041
of household good and misc items

misc items
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MONS AND NOTICE SUPREME COURT THE STATE OF NEW COUNTY (INGS INDEX NO. 9089/2011

NYCTL 2010-A TRUST NYCTL 2010-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COL-LATERAL AGENT AND AND R THE TRUST, LAIEHAL AGENI AND CUSTODIAN FOR THE NYCTL 2010-A TRUST, Plaintiffs -against- NEALC-HAND SEUDHARRY, and all of his respective heirs, next of kin. distributees devisees, grantees, trus-tees, lienors, creditors, as-signees and successors in devisees. interest, if they or any of them be dead, and their re-spective husbands, wives spective husbands, wives or widows, if any, all of whom and whose names and places or residence

Legal Notices NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF

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248

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RONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF

TERNAL BEVENUE SER

the names of the last 100 defendants being fictitious, the true names of said, de-

fendants being unknown to plaintiffs, it being intended to designate fee owners,

tenants or occupants of the

liened premises and/or per-sons or parties having or

claiming an interest in or a

lien upon the liened prem-ises, if the aforesaid indi-vidual defendants be dead,

their heirs at law, next of

kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, committees, devisees, legatees, and the assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest of them.

cessors in interest of them and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as

a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the

complaint herein, Defen-

PHOPERTY ADDRESS: 248 STANHOPE STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, BLOCK: 3269 LOT: 26. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUM-MONED to answer the complaint in this action and

to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is

not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff Attorney(s) within 20 days after the service of this

summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is

complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of

New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be

taken against you by de-fault for the relief demand-

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THE OBJECT of the above entitled action is to fore-close a tax lien for the close a tax lien for the amount due and interest, recorded in the office of the Register/Clerk of the County of Kings on the 18th day of August, 2010 and bearing City Register File Number ("CRFN")

ADDRESS .248 STAN-HOPE STREET, BROOK-LYN, NEW YORK BLOCK: 3269

COUNTY: KINGS

2010000279055

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the tax lien described above. Plaintif designates Kings County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the county where the Property being foreclosed upon is located. NOTICE YOU ARE DANGER OF LOSIN ARE IN LOSING YOUR HOME

IF YOU DO NOT RE-SPOND TO THIS SUM-MONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF WHO FILED FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST
YOU AND FILING THE
ANSWER WITH THE
COURT, A DEFAULT
JUDGMENT MAY BE EN-DEFAULT AY BE EN-YOU MAY TERED AND YOU LOSE YOUR HOME SPEAK TO AN ATTOR-NEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER OW TO ANSWER SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROP-

SENDING PAYMENT TO THE PLAINTIFF WILL NOT STOP THIS FORE-CLOSURE ACTION. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. ATTEMPTING

ARE ATTEMPTING
COLLECT A DEBT,
/ INFORMATION OB-ANY TAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

BOSENBERG & FSTIS

JAMIE C. KRAPF, ESQ. ATTORNEYS FOR PLAIN-733 THIRD AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

PHONE: (212) 867-6000 TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The fore-DEFENDANTS: The fore-going supplemental sum-mons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Court dat-ed OCTOBER 3, 2011 and filed along with the sup-porting papers in the KINGS Country Clerk's Of-fice. This is an action to This is an action to foreclose a tax lien. SCHEDULE 1 - DESCRIP

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land with the buildings and improve-ments thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, Borough of Brooklyn, City and State of New York, known and designated on the City of New York Tax Map as BLOCK 3269, LOT 26. Notice of Public Hearing The NYC Board of Stan-

dards and Appeals has scheduled a public hearing on the following applica-tion: Application May 13, 2011 - Variance (§72-21) to permit a UG6 food store (Whole Foods), contrary to use regula-tions. M2-1 zoning dis-trict. Address: 172-220 Third Street, block bounded by 3rd Street, 3rd Avenue, 4th Street Basin and Gowanus Canal, Block 978, Lot 1, 7, 16, 19, 23, 30, 32, Borough of Brooklyn. Masyr, Wachtel & LLP, for Whole Market Group, Foods er. Community Board 6BK. This application, No.: 66-11-BZ, has No.: Cal. been calendared for Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 1:30
P.M. session, 40 Rector Street, 6th floor Hearing Room "E", Borough of Manhattan Interested persons or associations may appear at the hearing to present testimony regarding this application. This application application can be viewed at the Board es, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. This notice is published by the applicant in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Board of Stan-

dards and Appeals Dated: November 7, 2011 Wachtel & Masyr LLP, Applicant



State University of New York Notice to Bidders



The State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center will receive sealed Proposals for Project No. 07-111 Titled: "Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) Alterations" until 2:00 p.m. Local Time on Friday January 20, 2011. Submit bids to the office of Mr. Daniel P. Devine, Purchase Associate, Contracts and Procurement, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 113, Brooklyn, New York 11203. The proposals will then be publicly opened and read aloud at 811 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203, Conference Room # 2-11.

All work on this Contract is to be completed within Five Hundred and Forty Five (545) calendar days, starting ten (10) calendar days after the contract approval date of the New York State Comptroller.

Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge at the campus at: SUNY Downstate Medical Center 450 Clarkson Avenue, Facilities Management and Development Plan Room, Box 13, Brooklyn, NY 11203-2098.

1. A MANDATORY Pre-bid Conference and Project Walk-through will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2012 with all contractors assembled at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in the Main Lobby, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203. The mandatory conference will begin promptly at 2:00PM. No individual or additional walk-through will be erformed under the pre-bid time period. Only bidders who attend the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and Project Walkthrough will be permitted to submit a proposal on this project.

2. Qualifications of Bidders:

(1) All prospective bidders are hereby notified that, on request of the University, they must be able to prove to the satisfaction of the University that they have the skill and experience, as well as the necessary facilities, ample financial resources, organization and general reliability to do the work to be performed under the provisions of the Contract in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified.

The project is approximately 3,500 square feet in size. There is a make ready phase, where a temporary PICU is established in another room on the floor, followed by the main construction phase. The PICU contains five pediatric intensive care patient rooms - one is an Isolation room - as well as associated ancillary spaces. It is a state-of-theart facility that embraces evidence based design and family-centered care. The level of finishes would be considered moderate to high-end and the millwork is custom. The scope of the PICU work includes the following systems: MEP, fire protection, fire alarm, security, tel/data, telemetry,

and nurse call. While the bulk of the construction is contained on the 4th floor, work will be performed in the basement, in the 3rd floor mechanical room, on the adjacent 3rd floor roof, and in patient rooms on the third floor directly below the unit. This will require coordination and scheduling capabilities which the contractor must be able to demonstrate. (2) Each bidder must be prepared to show to the satisfaction of the University that it has working capital available for

the Project upon which it is bidding in an amount equal to 15 percent of the first \$100,000 of the amount of its Total Bid plus 10 percent of the next \$900,000 plus 5 percent of the remainder of its Total Bid. Working capital is defined as the excess of current assets over current liabilities. The University defines current assets as assets which can be reasonably expected to be converted into cash within a year, and current liabilities as debts which will have to

(3) A bidder must also be prepared to prove, to the satisfaction of the University, that it has successfully completed a contract of similar work in a similar hospital environment of an amount of not less than 100 percent (100%) of the amount of its Total Bid. This work must include either pediatric intensive care patient rooms, adult pediatric intensive care patient rooms, or protective environment patient rooms, (Protective Environment Rooms are defined in the 2010 GFI Guidelines for Health Care Facilities. The differentiating factor between these rooms and other typical patient rooms are the requirements for filtration and positive air pressure relative to adjoining spaces.

Complete sets of Contract Documents for bidding may be obtained from Dan Devine, Purchase Associate. Contracts and Procurement Department, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 113, Brooklyn, NY 11203, Tel: (718) 826-5009, email: Dan Devine@Downstate.edu Section 143 of the State Finance Law requires payment of a deposit to receive these documents. Accordingly, a deposit

check of \$49.00, made payable to SUNY Downstate Medical Center is required. Deposits less than \$50.00 are nonrefundable. Bids must be submitted in duplicate in accordance with the instructions contained in the Information for Bidders. Security will be required for each bid in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the Total Bid.

It is the policy of the State of New York and the State University of New York to encourage minority business enterprise participation in this project by contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, and all bidders are expected to cooperate in implementing this policy

The State University of New York reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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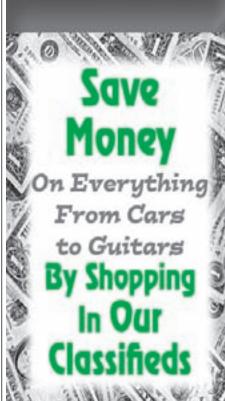
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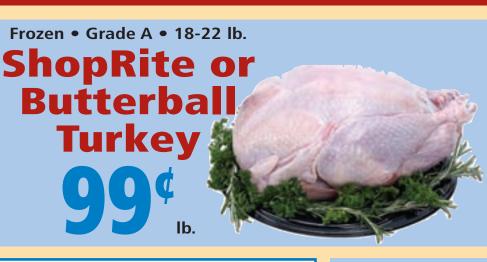


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